

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE DISADVANTAGE OF STEREOTYPED DOCTRINE.

NATIONAL creeds remind us of plaster-of-Paris busts—once cast they remain unchanged and unchangeable until broken to pieces. They may have been originally beautiful or ugly—beautiful we mean in the eyes of those who saw them in all the freshness of their novelty. At best they are but rigid images of divine truth, without life, without expression—but when the dust of ages has settled upon their protuberant features, or the smears of some later workman, anxious to improve upon the original, shade and embrown them in unsightly patches, they answer very indifferently the purpose of presenting at one view the charms of Christianity.

If theology be a science (and who will dispute it), it should grow. Its primary features, it is true, will remain through all time the same—so will those of the infant born but yesterday. But to the eye of society, Christianity will, in the lapse of ages, be more fully developed; and if it has hitherto made small progress in this way, the reason must be sought, not in any want of vitality in it, but in the restrictions and old-womanish bandages of state-appointed creeds and formularies. The infant was vigorous enough during the first three centuries—nobody was alarmed by any appearances of permanent deformity. But ever since Constantine's day, the nurses of the church have insisted upon forcing upon it pads, supports, and cripple-irons, afraid to leave its own nature to push itself unassisted to maturity, lest its head should be awry, and its limbs twisted out of their proper shape and proportions. There would seem to be no method of displaying this folly in its ridiculous absurdity, but by showing its operation under some imaginary aspect.

Take, then, the following illustration.

Chemical science, it will be readily admitted, is second in utility to none in the whole range of natural philosophy. Agriculture and the manufactures owe their advancement to their present state of perfection, mainly to its discoveries. Our post of superiority in the commercial world could not have been attained without its valuable aid. It has multiplied the conveniences of life. It has furnished us with means for prolonging it. It has beautified our dwellings from the palace to the cottage. It has added incalculably to our resources. Happily it has escaped the meddling interference of statesmen, and has consequently prospered.

But suppose it had been otherwise. Suppose that upon the explosion of alchemy, and the establishment of chemistry upon the solid basis of inductive philosophy, certain leading doctrines of the science, agreed upon by the experimentalists of the day, had been honoured with the patronage of government. Suppose a manual of chemistry to have been drawn up and circulated through the land, an unfeigned assent and consent to all and every part of which should have constituted the unalterable condition of admission to our universities, and to every state and corporate office. Add a body of ten thousand men, sworn to maintain the system in which they had been instructed, to teach no other doctrines, to acknowledge no further discovery which might by possibility militate against the authorised creed. Pay them liberally; give them a place in the councils of the nation; make it their interest to keep the science *in statu quo*—and you have the establishment of chemistry.

Could any plan be devised by the skill of man, more effectually to stay the progress of the science? What motive would be left to succeeding philosophers to pursue their inquiries beyond the limits marked out for them by law? What hope of pushing their investigations to a successful issue, compelled as they would be to start from a false principle? What reward could be expected to crown the labours of that man, who by persevering and indefatigable research should acquire a knowledge of laws till then unheard of, but the charge of innovation and heresy, yelped by ten thousand scientific placemen whose emoluments were in danger? Every avenue, but one, to honourable distinction in this department of philosophy would be closed. Every inducement to independent inquiry would be wanting. Every obstacle would be thrown in its way. Curiosity, with which the Creator has beneficially endowed our race—the germ of all improvement, the mainspring of the mental apparatus, would be a useless and a dangerous attribute of man, in the field of chemistry. Disdaining coercion, and prevented by social and legal restraints from indulging, in this direction, its own

native tendencies, it would seek another, haply, a less useful sphere, in which it might breathe freely, and disport itself unannoyed by the clamour of paid and interested partisans. The science would be suffocated by the officious embraces of the state.

Now, it clearly belongs to the advocates of a religious establishment to show why theology alone, in the whole circle of sciences immeasurably the most important, should be thus degraded. Is the field of revelation less extensive than that of nature? Is there less scope here for the vigorous exercise of the intellectual faculties? Are the laws of the spiritual world so much better known than those of the material, so much more easily determined upon, so little liable to be mistaken, as to render patient, assiduous, and independent inquiry useless? Is religion less important than chemistry? Are the interests of men less closely identified with a correct knowledge of the doctrines of Christianity, than of the laws of Mechanics? Why is the mind of man, free to roam over all the diversified regions of science, to put on fetters immediately upon entering the domains of divine truth? Why are its aspirations heavenward to be made, like the wings of the chained eagle, a useless incumbrance? Are the tendencies of man to pursue spiritual inquiries so overpowering that they need the whole weight of an establishment to counteract them? Is there any wisdom, any propriety, any political seemliness, in preventing the growth of religious knowledge, and the correct formation of religious sentiment, by bandaging up the national mind with creeds and formularies? We pause for a reply. We ask what peculiarity there is in theological science which renders it expedient to hedge it about with articles, when every other science, natural and moral, is left, with the consent of all parties, to stand or fall by its own merits.

The study of truth revealed in scripture constitutes the noblest exercise of our intellectual powers. A world is therein thrown open to our research teeming with the richest, the fullest, the most varied and impressive illustrations of the divine character. The phenomena of that world, so far as they come under our inspection, require in their investigation the nicest care, the utmost simplicity of spirit, the cordial love of truth for its own sake, and the most determined resolution to follow where it leads. If ever, in the pursuit of knowledge, it be necessary to divest the mind of prejudice, to remove from the judgment every possible temptation to be led astray by passion, and to cultivate that childlike meekness of spirit which listens only to understand, which understands only to obey, most assuredly it is here. And can anything be more monstrous than for statesmen to prescribe, to interpret, to patronise here—and chain down the mind to authorised creeds, and offer bribes to conscience, and attempt to sway, by appealing to interested motives; the decisions of mankind? Is it not appalling, that in religion the interference of governments should be tolerated with indifference, and even vociferously applauded, when in natural science it would be scouted with indignation? Are we to be slaves of system where we ought to be most free? tempted to take our knowledge at second hand, where anxious examination and diligent inquiry constitute our most sacred obligation? degraded for our independence, where implicit faith is at once dangerous and criminal? What could we expect from such a daring violation of the freedom of mind but ignorant and servile credulity on the one hand, or empty formality and loathsome hypocrisy on the other?

BIBLE MONOPOLY—THE NOTTINGHAM GATHERING.

We mentioned some time since the intention of Dr. Thompson of Coldstream, to whom the anti-bible-monopoly cause is so deeply indebted, to be present at the autumn meeting of the Congregational Union at Nottingham, and to urge upon the assembled ministers some active measures with a view to the extinction of that foul blot upon British Christianity—a bible-printing-monopoly. We understand that the Rev. Doctor was present at this gathering of divines—was most courteously received, and as courteously bowed out on the ground of want of time. The friends of the cause, however, were not thus to be defeated. They took the opportunity of a meeting convened on Friday evening, 22nd ult., of the Nottingham Religious Freedom Society, to bring this most important subject forward. Dr. Thompson had left the town—but his place was very efficiently supplied by Mr. Dow. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Josiah Conder, secretary of the Parent Religious Freedom Society.

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the spirit of oppression and persecution manifested by a large and influential party in the established church, towards the dissenters of this kingdom; the determination averred to en-

force the payment of church rates, in defiance of the refusal of the majority in vestry; the scandalous abuses and grievous justice connected with the jurisdiction of the spiritual courts; the attempts to deprive dissenting ministers from being tenants; the refusal of many of the clergy to bury dissenters, while the right to burial by their own ministers in the parochial cemeteries is still unjustly withheld; the regulations infringing upon the religious right of the poor in the union workhouses, and the vexations to which protestants, ministers, and missionaries in the British dependencies and colonies are exposed, from the intolerant assumptions of the episcopal clergy, combine to demonstrate the necessity of stedfast and vigorous co-operation among all the friends to religious freedom, in defence of their existing right, and in opposition to further encroachments."

To the list of grievances here enumerated, Mr. Dow moved by way of amendment, the insertion of the bible monopoly, which after a little haggling was put and carried.

We said, on mentioning the subject by way of anticipation, that no minister would be found to stand up and oppose so reasonable and so apposite a proposition, as one going to the condemnation of the bible monopoly. In one sense we were right—in another we were wrong—no one did stand up to oppose such a resolution—but the *animus* of certain parties was sufficiently disclosed. The matter was to have been hushed up by a *manœuvre*—and this intention having been defeated by the magnanimity of Mr. Dow, the *Patriot* hopes to smother it by silence. We have little to say upon this matter. We wait for full evidence—and we call publicly upon the Rev. A. Wells, secretary of the Congregational Union, and upon Mr. Josiah Conder, secretary of the Religious Freedom Society, to come forth and vindicate the Congregational Union, from any intention past or present, to stifle the immensely important question of bible monopoly—and to declare whether it was, and still is, their intention, as representatives of the bodies of which they severally are secretaries, to shield the monopoly as at present existing, or to hinder the fullest discussion upon its merits. We shall await a reply, and return to the matter in due season.

THE CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS ECCLESIASTICAL OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

MINISTERS, THEIR ORDINATION, FUNCTION, AND CHARGE.

XXXI. Four solemn times appointed for the making of ministers.

Forasmuch as the ancient fathers of the church, led by example of the apostles, appointed prayers and fasts to be used at the solemn ordering of ministers; and to that purpose allotted certain times, in which only sacred orders might be given or conferred: we, following their holy and religious example, do constitute and decree, that no deacons or ministers be made and ordained, but only upon the Sundays immediately following *Jejunia quatuor temporum*, commonly called *Ember weeks*, appointed in ancient time for prayer and fasting (purposely for this cause at their first institution), and so continued at this day in the church of England: and that this be done in the cathedral or parish church where the bishop resideth, and in the time of divine service, in the presence not only of the archdeacon, but of the dean and two prebendaries at the least, or (if they shall happen by any lawful cause to be let or hindered) in the presence of four other grave persons, being Masters of Arts at the least, and allowed for public preachers.

XXXII. None to be made deacon and minister both in one day.

The office of deacon being a step or degree to the ministry, according to the judgment of the ancient fathers and the practice of the primitive church; we do ordain and appoint, that hereafter no bishop shall make any person, of what qualities or gifts soever, a deacon and a minister both together on one day; but that the order in that behalf prescribed in the Book of making and consecrating Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, be strictly observed. Not that always every deacon should be kept from the ministry for a whole year, when the bishop shall find good cause to the contrary; but that there being now four times appointed in every year for the ordination of deacons and ministers, there may ever be some time of trial of their behaviour in the office of deacon, before they be admitted to the order of priesthood.

XXXIII. The titles of such as are to be made ministers.

It hath been long since provided by many decrees of the ancient fathers, that none should be admitted either deacon or priest, who had not first some certain place where he might use his function. According to which examples we do ordain, that henceforth no person shall be admitted into sacred orders, except he shall at that time exhibit to the bishop, of whom he desireth imposition of hands, a presentation of himself to some ecclesiastical preferment then void in that diocese; or shall bring to the said bishop a true and undoubted certificate, that either he is provided of some church within the said diocese, where he may attend the cure of souls, or of some minister's place vacant, either in the cathedral church of that diocese, or in some other collegiate church therein also situate, where he may execute his ministry; or that he is a fellow, or in right as a fellow, or to be a conduct or chaplain in some college in Cambridge or Oxford; or except he be a master of arts of five years standing, that liveth of his own charge in either of the universities; or except by the bishop himself, that doth ordain him minister, he be shortly after to be admitted either to some benefice or curateship then void. And if any bishop shall admit any person into the ministry, that hath none of these titles as is aforesaid, then he shall keep and maintain him with all things necessary, till he do prefer him to some ecclesiastical living. And if the said bishop shall refuse so to do, he shall be suspended by the archbishop, being assisted with another bishop, from giving of orders by the space of a year.

On Thursday morning the annual form of asking for a church rate in the parish of All Saints, Leicester, was gone through; but more than usual interest was excited by rumours that the compulsionists would muster, and taking advantage of the smallness of the number who generally assemble on these occasions, would endeavour to lay the rate, which for some years past has not been attempted, the expenses having been defrayed by voluntary subscription. Mr. Ald. Hudson, churchwarden, asked for a church rate of 6d. in the pound, which was seconded by Mr. Crow. Mr. S. Baines moved an amendment that no rate be granted. Mr. Cowper seconded the amendment, which having been put from the chair, a forest of hands appeared for it, and only one against it. The original motion was put, and one only voted for it.

A vestry meeting, numerously attended, was held on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the town hall, Brighton, for the double purpose of auditing and passing the accounts of the churchwardens for the year ending in July last, and making a new rate of 1d. in the pound for the sustentation and repair of the parish church of St. Nicholas, and the church or chapel of ease of St. Peter. The accounts of the churchwardens were presented to the vestry in July last, when a committee was appointed to investigate them, and the meeting adjourned for a month for the purpose of receiving a report. At the adjourned meeting the committee presented a lengthened report, in which they complained of the unbusiness-like manner in which the accounts were kept, and gave an opinion that a considerable portion of the expenditure was illegal, particularly a sum of upwards of £2,000, which had been laid out in the purchase and laying out of a new burial-ground. This meeting again adjourned for a month, when a supplementary report was brought up, and a further adjournment took place for two months, which will expire on the 8th November next. The churchwardens, however, called the meeting before the expiration of the period of adjournment. The Rev. H. M. Wagner, vicar of Brighton, took the chair, and perhaps 500 rate payers might have been present. Mr. Colbatch, after giving a history of the proceedings connected with the churchwardens accounts, moved, "that as the accounts were now under the investigation of a committee appointed by the last vestry, which stands adjourned to the 9th of November next, it is neither proper nor expedient to pass the accounts, nor to make any church rate, until after such meeting." This resolution having been seconded by Mr. S. W. Bennett, Mr. E. Cornford moved an amendment, "that the accounts be passed," which was seconded by Mr. J. S. Ward. On the question being put to a show of hands, the original motion was carried by a large majority, upon which a poll was demanded by the church party. The second object of the meeting—the making of a church rate of 1d. in the pound—was then proceeded with, and was also lost by a large majority, and a poll was demanded on this question also. The following is the result:

	Votes.	Voters.
Against the rate	1,610	1,406
For the rate	1,271	987

Majority against the rate. 339 419

A vestry meeting was held at Gedney on Thursday, when a rate of a penny in the pound was proposed, which was met by an amendment for adjournment, but the amendment was ultimately lost. Polling was carried on with great activity on Thursday and Friday, and the rate was gained by a majority of 75, the number being for the rate 161, against it 86.

A vestry was held at Woolwich on Thursday last, pursuant to adjournment, for the purpose of making a rate of 2d. in the pound. In consequence of many illegal items being included in the rate, such as charge for perambulating the parish, organist's salary, wine for the vestry, &c., a strong opposition was made to it by the parishioners, and the rate was lost on the show of hands. A poll was then demanded, which closed on Saturday afternoon with a majority of 339 in favour of the rate.

The *Ten Towns' Messenger* of last week says, "We are glad to hear that the churchwardens of the parish of Oldswinford will shortly call another meeting for the purpose of making a church rate. The anti-church rate league will doubtless again rally their forces to defeat the object of the meeting; but we fear not the result." The gladness of the editor is premature: no such intention exists in the minds of the present churchwardens as that of applying for a church rate. They are, in fact, at the present moment collecting a voluntary rate, which the more respectable portion of the members of the establishment have already paid. It is a cause of rejoicing to this very christian print, that the repose of a large and populous parish is likely shortly to be disturbed, and the ill-feeling engendered by former contests, which has now happily subsided, again called into existence; but he is doomed to disappointment, for no intention of making a church rate exists in the minds of any party in the parish at all likely to make the attempt. The rector himself has declared he will not be a party to such an attempt; and were it otherwise, the opponents of a rate can have no fear for the result of a contest in which they would come off victorious by an immense majority. The anti-rate party do not court a contest; they are content to remain at peace, in the enjoyment of that freedom from oppression which the law and their numerical strength ensure them; but if a contest is forced upon them, they will again do their duty, as in years which are passed.—*Manchester Chronicle*.

On Tuesday week the goods seized at Bradford for church rates were offered for sale, in front of the court house, by Mr. Timothy Ingham, the auctioneer. As soon as he made his appearance he was greeted with the hissing of a numerous assemblage of persons, who had come not to purchase, but to show their abhorrence of such proceedings. He offered for sale the ham which had been taken from Jas. Garnett, Esq., but he could not get a bid; and after making several fruitless attempts to sell, he retired. The churchwardens of North Bierley have received an attorney's letter, threatening an action at law if their quota of £27 towards the church rate be not paid on or before Monday, Nov. 1.

We are requested to state, on highly respectable authority, that a communication has been received in Birmingham, from Sir James Graham, announcing the intention of government to propose a measure, soon after the assembling of parliament, respecting church rates. The government measure now proposing, we are assured, is similar to that introduced by Earl Spencer, when the noble earl (as Lord Althorp) was chancellor of the exchequer.—*Ten Towns' Messenger*.

A few weeks since Mr. Robert Norman, residing at Cottenham, Cambridge (a village notorious in our recollection for displays of bigotry), distributed among his neighbours a tract which had been extensively circulated, and which contained animadversions on the Prayer Book, and on the ceremony of confirmation. The Rev. John Frere, the rector, having heard of the circumstance, sent to the offender the following letter, which is worthy of attention as illustrating the natural effects of a sect established by law:

"Cottenham—The Rectory.
"Mr. NORMAN—I write to inform you that, in pursuance of my duty as rector of

this parish, I presented you yesterday to the bishop of this diocese, for circulating among my parishioners a tract tending to dissuade persons from going to the bishop to be confirmed; and containing, among other things that impugn the public worship of God established in the church of England, the assertion that the Prayer Book does not agree with the Bible. I have to acquaint you that the punishment for this offence is excommunication, and that you will be cited in the Ecclesiastical Court, and condemned in costs. As, however, my sole desire is to vindicate the honour of God and his church before men; and, by making you sensible that you have been guilty of a heavy offence against both, to prevent your committing the like in future; and as I have no wish to trouble you or have you in any way punished, I requested the bishop to stay proceedings against you for ten days, which his lordship readily granted. If you, therefore, will withdraw all the copies of this tract, which you can remember having circulated among my parishioners, and will deliver them, together with as many more as you may happen to have in your possession, to me, on or before Monday next, 9th inst., and if you will further, on or before the same day, acknowledge your fault in having circulated these tracts, and will set your hand to the acknowledgment of it which I herewith send you, consenting that I shall cause the same to be read publicly in church, on some Sunday which I shall appoint, during the time of divine service, I will stay the proceedings against you altogether.

"To Mr. Norman. JOHN FRERE, Rector."

The following was the "acknowledgment" enclosed and alluded to in the above, and strongly reminds one of the penitential paper drawn up by the famous vicar of Gedney, for his clerk to sign when that functionary had offended him:—

"The Recantation of Robert Norman, of the parish of Cottenham. I, Robert Norman, of the parish of Cottenham, in the Isle of Ely, acknowledge myself guilty of having distributed in the parish a tract, tending to persuade persons from going to the bishop to be confirmed, and impugning the public worship of God established in the church of England; and, among other false and wicked assertions, declaring that the Prayer Book does not agree with the Bible. I, Robert Norman, having been brought to see the wickedness of these assertions, do repudiate and renounce them. I am heartily sorry that I have contributed to disseminate them. I humbly ask forgiveness of God and his church, and I pray God not to lay this sin to my charge. And, further, I hereby promise and declare that I will never again, by word or deed, by circulation of printed papers or otherwise, oppose or impugn the ministers, or liturgy, or rites and ceremonies of the church of England. In witness hereof I have this day hereto set my hand.

"Cottenham, the day of in the year of our Lord 1841."

Mr. Norman naturally enough treated these effusions of priestly pride with contempt. The Rector then transmitted to him the following:—

"Mr. ROBERT NORMAN—As I am to see the bishop to-morrow, and he will expect an answer, I request that you will send me by ten o'clock this evening, anything in excuse or extenuation which you may have to offer to his lordship, that I may present it to him.

Yours, truly, J. FRERE.

"Monday."

Mr. Norman of course refused to sign the recantation.—*Leicester-shire Mercury.*

The *Cambridge Independent* says:—"The town of Cambridge, in the last six months, has presented two cases in which two incumbents have refused the rite of Christian burial to dissenters. We may, perhaps, be told that a burial was not denied; for a midnight interment, in which no parting prayer would have been given or permitted, would have been allowed; but the friends of those who had died in the pure and simple faith of their Redeemer, declined the interment of a suicide, and found elsewhere that place 'where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.' This is not all; the worst remains yet to be told. Having sternly refused the rites of Christian burial—having driven the parties to seek and to find a grave, at much trouble and inconvenience—these clergymen next demand the fees authorised by their church for the burial of the dead. In the first instance, we are informed, the demand was complied with; whether it has been also in the second we know not."

The bishop of Elphin (a relative of the Duke of Wellington) is now Bishop of Kilmore, Ardagh, and Elphin. The temporalities of Elphin are vested in the ecclesiastical commissioners. They amount to about £7,000 per annum. Seven of the ten bishoprics suppressed by Lord Stanley's bill, have now come under the operation of the act. The remaining bishoprics of this class, on which the incumbents survive, are Dromore, Clogher, and Kildare.

The Bishop of Exeter has issued a "charge" to the Rev. Mr. Head, announcing to him that he has appointed commissioners to inquire into a report connecting that clergyman with the publication of a paper "affirming and maintaining positions in derogation and depraving of the Book of Common Prayer." Mr. Head has published a long defence. The bishop declares he will proceed against him with the utmost rigour.—*Courier.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I thank you for inserting, a few weeks since, a letter on the necessity of a national union, with suitable men at its head, for the purpose of obtaining a thorough regeneration of our national affairs. One of your respondents (Mr. Thomas), expresses his fear that the plan proposed might not be found practicable. Perhaps he is right. And if so, a little discussion may elicit the scheme which, on the whole, ought to be preferred. What if the objects of the union were as follow?—

1. The abolition of all monopolies.

2. The payment of the interest of the public debt by a property tax, or (which is far better) the payment of the principal, by an adequate assessment on all property.

3. The suffrage, electoral districts, and the ballot, as explained in the people's charter.

The reform thus suggested is both fiscal and political, and in both respects radical. It comprises nothing but what justice and humanity demand. Other points may, perhaps, be wisely left for consideration when the main objects have been secured.

The political part of this scheme may be briefly defended thus:—

The poor man is taxed to the amount of, at least, one-third of his earnings. "Taxation without representation is tyranny." These words, I am told, are in *Magna Charta*. The constitution of our country, therefore, assigns to the poor man a vote in the choice of parliamentary representatives. The millions are now alive to the value of this right, and no plan will secure their co-operation which does not honestly include it.

Some, doubtless, would prefer to make the suffrage the one object of the projected movement. But the commercial interests of the nation are in a state demanding instant attention. By the time the charter or its leading provisions are made law, thousands of the poor will have been hurried to the grave from the want of proper food, and England may be irretrievably ruined.

J. D. Hume, Esq., was for thirty-eight years in the customs, and nearly eleven years afterwards at the board of trade. In the evidence he gave before a committee of the House of Commons, he estimated the yearly taxation of the country owing to the corn and provision laws to be, at least, thirty-six millions sterling.

The interest of the debt, and the collection of that interest, may be stated, in round numbers, at thirty millions annually.

Here, then, are taxes actually imposed on the people, to the enormous amount of more than sixty millions sterling.

The worst part of the case yet remains: for these taxes are so levied as to cripple in every imaginable way the industry of the nation.

John Bull is thus subjected to two evils. A tremendous load is placed on his shoulders. This, however inconvenient, his native strength and spirit might enable him to bear. But, alas! the life-blood is, at the same time, slowly but surely drawn from his veins. How much longer is this consummation of folly and cruelty to be endured?

As the urgency of the case requires reformers to look well to the question of taxation, good policy, I think, will give the same direction to their plans; for whilst the proposal of a thorough fiscal change will not alienate any of the poor, it will reconcile to the movement multitudes of the middle classes who are quite indifferent to any alteration merely political. Tell them you desire to give every man a vote and they are unmoved: tell them you wish to secure to the poor man and his wife and children, tea at 2s. and sugar at 3d., and coffee at 1s. per lb., and their sympathy is enlisted in your cause, and their aid secured.

Nor should it be overlooked, that the oppressive burdens now imposed on the people are the cause of a fearful amount of immorality. The needy are thereby constantly exposed to the temptations from which Agar prayed to be free. Smuggling, with all its attendant evils, abounds; all manner of tricks are resorted to in order to lower, by adulteration, the value of commodities which might be procured in their pure state so cheap as to remove the inducement to adulteration; and devices the most ingenious and numerous are employed to evade the taxes which the laws impose.

England, amidst whose scenes of beauty we loved to wander in the sunny days of childhood, and love to wander still—England, the home of our fathers and our children, is justly threatened with ruin, because the poor are not treated with equity. Oh! where are the men—the few men—well-informed, influential from their character and station, and heedless alike of frowns and ridicule, who will meet together, and deliberate, and promptly act? A well-digested plan—so sweeping as to deserve the hearty co-operation of the masses, and so evidently humane as to appeal at once to the piety of Christians of every class—proceeding from such parties, would rally, with lightning speed, the now disorganised ranks of the people, who are waiting in breathless suspense to be led onward to a bloodless conflict, and to a victory most sure and glorious.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

W. ROBINSON.

[We are unable to comment upon the letter of our respected correspondent this week. We need hardly say, we approve the objects at which he aims; but as, on purely practical grounds, we disapprove of mixing up for agitation subjects so widely different, we shall do both ourselves and our correspondent justice in deferring editorial remark until we have had time for reflection.]

GENERAL POLITICS.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The British and North American Royal Mail steamer *Acadai*, Captain Ryrie, arrived at Liverpool at a late hour on Friday night. She sailed from Boston on the 16th, and Halifax on the night of the 18th ult. She has, therefore, completed the passage (including a stoppage of eight hours at Halifax) in 13 days and 6 hours. She has brought 76 passengers. By this conveyance New York papers to the 15th, Boston to the 16th, and Halifax to the 18th ult. have been received. The contents of the American papers are highly important.

The trial of M'Leod, which, it will be recollected, commenced on the 4th inst., terminated on the 12th, in the acquittal of the prisoner. The verdict of the jury seems to have given very general satisfaction.

Grogan, who had been seized and captured by a band of volunteers from the British territory, had been liberated by the Canadian Government. The papers congratulate the friends of peace in both countries on the prompt manner in which an affair which might have led to difficulties between Great Britain and the United States had been settled.

The other intelligence contained in the papers is not of leading interest.

The following extract is from the *New York American*, of October 15.

The acquittal of M'Leod, whose case has so long held public opinion and the fears of two great nations in suspense, is an event that cannot but exercise a fortunate influence over all our relations, political, commercial, and financial, with Great Britain. The trial was conducted with great dignity and entire impartiality, and the full benefit of every doubt was as freely and with as little hesitation given to the prisoner, by the court and jury, as though he had been a native instead of a foreigner, and as though no American blood had been spilled, and no pollution of the American soil had been committed.

We dwell with some emphasis upon these facts, first of all, because distrust of the calmness and impartiality of the American courts had been freely expressed in some English papers; and still more, because we desire that the British Government should see in them what they do truly denote—that resolute purpose which, in doing justice to others, means to require it in full measure for ourselves. We add that, while the liberation of M'Leod, by due course of law, and the immediate restoration by the Canadian authorities of the man Grogan, unlawfully seized within our territory, remove the immediate sources of collision between the two countries, the main question still remains to be adjusted; and just in proportion as we have been strenuous that M'Leod should have entire fair play, and as we rejoice in his acquittal, must and will be the decision with which the claims of national satisfaction for a national outrage is to be pressed by this government upon that of Great Britain.

[From the *New York Courier*.]

Sir Richard Jackson, in the temporary administration of the Canadian government, has promptly yielded up the person of Grogan upon the demand of our government, and he was on the 4th inst. handed over to the inspector of police by the sheriff of Montreal, to be by the former functionary safely escorted to the United States lines.

The *Montreal Herald* indulges in some characteristic remarks in announcing this fact, not either in very good temper or good taste. The person of Grogan is described as exhibiting a very sufficient scoundrel, and our government and people are about as beautifully abused as is usual with that amiable paper.

To say truth, we do not marvel very much at the indignation felt by the Canadians for the individual, but the boiler of this editor is certainly kept rather too highly heated, and will burst one of these days, unless the gauge is more carefully looked to. This man Grogan was a British subject when he left "Her Majesty's" dominions, and probably deserves hanging if he is ever caught coming voluntarily upon British soil; but they must not come across the line to catch him.

FRANCE.

The Paris papers of Friday and Saturday are destitute of domestic intelligence of importance.

The following official announcement of diplomatic appointments is in the *Moniteur*:—"Baron Billing, to be agent and consul-general in Egypt; Baron de Langsdorff, to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Brazil, in the room of Baron Rouen, who retires; and the Marquis de Chasseloup Laubat, to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Germanic confederation, in the room of Baron Deffaudis, who is called to other functions."

A royal ordonnance, dated Wednesday, appoints M. Pataille, first president of the royal court of Aix, to be councillor of the court of Cassation, and M. Poulle, president de chambre, in the royal court of Aix, to be first president.

It would appear that a considerable time is likely to elapse before the trial of Quenisset is brought forward, for, says the *Temps*, "in consequence of the additional number of persons arrested as accomplices, the reading of the act of accusation is indefinitely postponed."

BELGIUM.

A conspiracy has been detected in Brussels, of which we find the following particulars in the journals of that city, under date of Saturday:—

"BRUSSELS, Oct. 30.—The *Courier Belge* says, that two new six-pounders and two field-pieces, with horses and ammunition, have been seized in one of our suburbs. Six persons were arrested last night, among whom it is said are V. P., the intendant of the Marechaussee, and a captain of the wounded of September. Two generals have fled. The place where the cannon balls were cast has been discovered, as also the person who made the cartridges. The four pieces of cannon that were seized are in the town hall. Attempts have been made to seduce some subaltern officers of the garrison, who denounced them. To-morrow was the day fixed for the execution of the plot, which had ramifications at Ghent, Antwerp, and Liege, among the discontents. It might have succeeded had it broken out in the night, for the officers living in the suburbs might have been killed before they could get to their barracks. This accounts for the order given to all the officers of the garrison to return to the city. From what transpired the authorities pretend to have the clue to a vast counter-revolutionary conspiracy, which had been contriving for several months. It is said that the ministry have sent numerous orders and instructions to the provinces this morning. There was a council of ministers this morning, and despatches have been sent to the King."

SPAIN.

The Spanish news received by express is, on the whole, reassuring. It demonstrates that the insurrection is completely at an end, and it appears also that the French government has ordered the removal of the refugees from Spain into the interior of France.

The *Moniteur* of Saturday publishes the following telegraphic despatches:—

"Bayonne, Oct. 28.

"Madrid was tranquil on the 25th. Brigadier Quiroga y Frias has been sentenced to death."

"Perpignan, Oct. 29.

"The demolition of the bastions of the King and Queen of the citadel of Barcelona commenced on the 26th, at 9 o'clock a. m., in the presence of the junta of vigilance and the municipality. The national guards afterwards defiled on the square of the constitution, before the members of the junta, who each held in his hand a stone of the citadel. General Zabala and the political chief protested against the measure. The few troops of the line which remained in Barcelona were marched on the 25th towards the frontier, and in the afternoon of that day the 3d battalion of the national militia took possession of the citadel."

The *Moniteur Parisien* publishes the following intelligence:—

"Considerable excitement still existed throughout Catalonia. Two battalions were despatched, one to Olot, the other to Cerdagne. At Barcelona a riot was commenced at the bull fights, under pretence of the inferiority of the animals produced. The disturbance was suppressed through the energetic measures taken by the junta of vigilance. The citadel of Pampeluna had surrendered. It was asserted that several arrests were made at Bilboa, and that some executions had taken place. The Regent was still at Vittoria, but it was believed he would visit San Sebastian."

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 22d ult., publishes a despatch from the Marquis de Rodil, dated Ameygo, 20th, to the minister of war, announcing the capture and execution of Montes de Oca. *El Correspondiente* publishes a decree issued by the Marquis de Rodil, dated Burgos, 18th ult., proclaiming a general amnesty to all rebels who should surrender within 12 days. The *Eco del Commercio* of the 22d ult., endeavours to prove by extracts from the *Journal des Debats* that the late insurrection was prepared in Paris, and tolerated by the French government. *El Castellano* of the 22d ult., states, that a British ship of war was despatched from Gibraltar to aid the Spanish authorities at Valencia, if necessary. The *Eco del Commercio* of the 22d ult., announces the arrest of General Palarea at Cartagena. *El Correspondiente* states, that General Narvaez, having failed to excite an insurrection in the south, had fled into Portugal.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

EXTENSIVE FORGERY OF EXCHEQUER BILLS.

An inquiry has been going on during the past week at the Home office, respecting a fraudulent issue of exchequer bills. The particulars are kept a profound secret; nothing whatever is allowed to transpire. The result, however, was, that at the close of the proceedings the party accused was taken away in the custody of two inspectors of police. The most searching investigation is going forward at the Treasury and Exchequer bill office. Sir R. Peel, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir James Graham, attended the examination of the prisoner, which was taken before Mr. Hall, chief magistrate of Bow street. Lord Monteagle was also present at the inquiry into this mysterious affair. As the name of the accused is now very generally mentioned, perhaps we ought in justice to other parties holding official situations no longer to withhold it. The party in custody is "Mr. E. B. Smith, senior clerk in the office of making out and issuing exchequer bills." We understand Mr. Smith has been many years in the office, and is most respectably connected.—*Standard*.

Now that some progress has been made in the investigation of the "exchequer bill" fraud, so as to disclose at least the general bearings of it, the astonishment becomes universal in the city at the loose system of business which has left even the possibility of so extensive a fraud, much more of its continuance during so long a period. In the minds of men at all accustomed to order and regularity, it amounts to

a confession that no check or control existed over the issue from the Exchequer, and almost to furnish an excuse under such extraordinary temptation, if anything could do so, for the delinquency which has been committed. This is a truth so entirely past dispute among all parties in politics, that the only effort made is by one side to fix the original blame upon the other. The belief, we fear, is, that however bad Mr. Spring Rice found the system when he entered upon office, it became infinitely worse under his negligent administration. If it does not now undergo a complete reform, it will be the most entire neglect of a due protection to the public that could possibly be committed. Any bank clerk accustomed to the checks which the forms of business at the Bank of England impose upon all issues, would in a few hours so organise the exchequer bill department, as to make fraud, or even irregularity, quite impossible. The two issues do, indeed, resemble each other in character much more than would at a cursory view appear, for an exchequer bill passes from hand to hand almost as readily as a Bank of England note, and is, in ordinary circumstances, almost as easily converted into money. Surely the ridicule of all foreign nations, independently of our own, must attach to the whole of this affair, when it is perceived that a functionary like Lord Monteagle, called a "comptroller" of the exchequer, whose utmost employment would be to attach his signature to the issues, and who receives for that purpose £2,000 annually of the public money, performs all this work by deputies, who sign for him, not by order or procuration, which would transfer them some portion of the responsibility, but who write his name, and endeavour to imitate as nearly as they can his real signature—that is, who commit forgeries by authority; and all this extending over a circulation of the unfunded debt, which has never been less than £20,000,000 annually, and has been heretofore very much greater. Thus the melancholy truth comes out, that sinecures are made for public men out of responsible duties, which they always neglect, to the infinite disadvantages and danger of the whole community. How much better and more honest it would be to create a pension at once, and take away the possibility of committing so flagrant a breach of trust, for it deserves no better name.

Some people here have been amusing themselves by a calculation of the labours which would have devolved upon Lord Monteagle, supposing signature to have been attached to all the issues, and this amounts to about 40 hours, on the following grounds:—Take the average amount of bills at £500 each, and there would be 40,000 of these in number, which requires only the signature of 1,000 within the hour, a number which would be greatly exceeded after a little practice. We have met with one very good suggestion on this head to-day, which is, that, besides the signature of the comptroller, there should be the counter signature of the chief issuing clerk, but perhaps the better plan would be to have an office set apart for this purpose in the Bank of England, and placed under the general control of the establishment.—*Times*.

The following official notices have appeared:—

"In order as far as possible to relieve the public from the anxiety occasioned by the recent disclosures as to the forgery of exchequer bills, the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer think it right to announce that there is no reason to believe that any exchequer bills issued in March or June last by the paymaster of exchequer bills from their office, in regular exchange for bills of an antecedent date, are other than genuine."

"They think it right further to give notice, that all exchequer bills brought to the office of the comptroller-general of the exchequer will be examined and compared with the counterfoils in the said office, and such as correspond with the counterfoils will be certified as genuine, and stamped accordingly."

"The First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have caused this notification to be made at the earliest period at which it was possible to make it, consistently with a due examination into the circumstances of the case."

"Downing-street, October 28, 1841."

"Exchequer, October 29, 1841."

"In order to give the most immediate effect to the intentions of the lords of her Majesty's treasury, the Comptroller-General requests that the holders of exchequer bills brought for examination shall produce at the exchequer bill pay office, with their bills, a docket, on which shall be distinctly stated—

1. The number of each of the exchequer bills.
2. The act under which they have been severally issued.
3. The date.
4. The denomination or value.

"The exchequer bills of each denomination and issue, to be arranged according to their progressive numbers.

"Each exchequer bill to be signed on the back by the holder. The docket to be signed by the holder, with his address."

"These dockets will be compared with the bills at the exchequer bill pay office, Whitehall yard, and then passed on to the Comptroller-General for examination."

"The bills found to correspond with the counterfoils will be sent to be stamped as genuine, and returned to the holder as soon as this process is completed; but in order to lessen the inconvenience which may arise from the inevitable delay attending the process of stamping, an official receipt, signed by the Comptroller-General of the Exchequer, will be given to the several holders, specifying the number and denomination of the bills so returned."

"The instruments purporting to be bills which do not coincide with the counterfoils will be retained to await the directions of the treasury, but for these also a receipt shall be given."

"Parties attending shall be called in, and their bills examined, according to their priority of attendance."

"MONTEAGLE, Comptroller-General."

PARTIAL DESTRUCTION OF THE TOWER OF LONDON BY FIRE.

To the destruction by fire of both Houses of Parliament and the Royal Exchange, must now be added another public calamity—the partial destruction of the Tower of London. On Saturday night, between ten and eleven o'clock, a fire was discovered to be raging in the north-east part of the garrison, near to the armouries. The moment the flames were seen to issue forth the alarm bell was heard, and the most intense anxiety prevailed throughout the Tower; the whole of

the soldiers were put under arms, the drum beat, and a large body of the city force were soon in attendance.

The fire broke out in the upper, or third floor, of the extensive building fronting the White Tower, which is called the Small Armoury. Such was the rapidity of the flames, which were supposed to originate in a workshop occupied by persons engaged in the finishing of arms, that in a very short time they spread themselves over an immense building of 343 feet long and 64 wide, and the flames were so intense that the soldiers in the fortress were unable to approach the building, and the utmost fears began to be entertained for the safety of the whole of the fortress. In a short time after the alarm was given, Mr. Pearse, the superintendent of the H. division of police, with a strong body of constables, arrived on the spot, and used every effort in their power to remove the property that was likely to fall a sacrifice to the flames, which by this time had gained a most extraordinary ascendancy; but owing to the scarcity of water from the ordinary pipes, their efforts were unavailing, and in a short time the whole range of buildings we have before described was one entire mass of flames. At this time the crown jewels became an object of peculiar consideration, and Mr. Pearse and others urged the necessity of their immediate removal upon Mr. Swift, the person appointed to have the care of them; but their removal was a task much more difficult than ordinary persons could imagine. It may be in the recollection of those who have visited the Tower, and particularly the jewel room, that they were separated from the precious and valuable baubles by a very strong iron railing, behind which the jewels were placed, and were described by the female who usually went round with the visitors. Mr. Swift, the master of the jewel room, held the outer key to the jewel room, but the inner key was in the possession of her Majesty's chamberlain, and therefore a most formidable difficulty presented itself in reaching the diamonds through the strong iron railing. Such, however, was the urgency of the occasion, that it was decided on to force or break open the bars, and take out the diamonds. This was much easier conceived than executed, for after hammering away for at least twenty minutes at the grating, it was found that very little effect could be made upon that portion of it which consisted of wrought iron, therefore the attention of those present was directed to a portion which was cast iron, and in hammering at it a sufficient space was made, in about a quarter of an hour, to admit Mr. Pearse, superintendent of the H. division of police, and he instantly laid hold of the crown, and handed it out to Mr. Swift. He afterwards handed out the other various valuable antique jewels; and while doing so he was repeatedly called to get out of the place as soon as possible, else the building would fall about him. He, however, with the utmost coolness, removed every article before he left; and Mr. Swift, guarded by the police, succeeded in removing his precious burthen to the house of Major Elrington, where he deposited them in perfect safety. By this time the whole range of building called the small armoury, in which we understand nearly 300,000 stand of arms were deposited, was one mass of flames. Such was the heat emitted from the burning pile that it was impossible to remove any portion of the property from destruction; and the consequence was, that one of the most spacious and unique buildings, composed of vast stores, as well as 300,000 stand of arms, and a number of the splendid trophies famed in the recent wars, with its contents, with the exception of (it is said) 100,000 stand of arms, destroyed.

At one period of the conflagration it was supposed that the destruction of the jewel office, the ordnance offices, on the east terrace, from which a great number of the maps and charts had been removed, as well as that most beautiful and antique portion of the ancient fortress, the White Tower, must have fallen a sacrifice to the flames, but by the well directed efforts of the firemen, they prevented this additional calamity, as they played with their engines continually on those buildings. There was another point to which the attention of the firemen was directed, and that was the beautiful and truly antique specimen of architecture—the church, at the south end of the building then in flames, which was commenced in the reign of Edward I. By the judicious management and strenuous exertions of the firemen, under the superintendence of Captain Walker, of the fusilier guards, it was preserved, and at five o'clock the fire was got under, being confined to the building in which it broke out, but which at this time was reduced to a heap of ruins, and the damage, as we have before stated, is immense.

The scene on Tower-hill was terrific. There could not have been less than twenty thousand persons present the whole time, and a feeling of regret and heartfelt sorrow seemed to pervade all present on the occasion. The most dreadful apprehension existed that the armoury vaults contained barrels of gunpowder, and a great quantity of ball-cartridge, and it is well known that in that building no less than 200,000 stand of arms are usually kept. The fears as to the powder were providentially groundless, as in that case the whole of the building must have been blown up, with a loss of human life that would be awful to think of. The flames soon reached the armoury, and the total destruction of the north-east end of the building seemed inevitable. The exertions of the fire-brigade and the soldiers were almost superhuman, yet the whole building seemed one mass of flame, and at half-past twelve the chapel and clock-tower fell in with a dreadful crash. The screams of the women outside the gates, who had relations within, were most heart-rending, and a great number of persons of the first respectability, who made the most urgent entreaty to be admitted, were repulsed. At half-past one a battalion of the foot guards arrived to render further aid, and as they entered the north gate a terrible rush took place to obtain admission with them, but the public were again repulsed.

It was hoped that the calamity would have been confined to the destruction of public property alone, but, unfortunately, there is added to it the loss of human life, in the person of a young man belonging to the fire brigade, named Richard Wivell. While the deceased was in the act of holding the branch belonging to one of the engines, at the east end of the ruins, and a short distance from the entrance to the jewel room, a piece of loose brickwork from the shelving part of the wall, and weighing about three hundred weight, fell on his helmet, and he instantly dropped to the ground. Every means were used to restore animation, but without effect, and he died in a few minutes after the accident. While the fire was raging on Sunday morning another accident occurred to Wright, belonging to the County Fire-office. It appeared, that while on the roof of the White Tower his footing gave

way, and he fell to the ground. It was feared the injuries were of a serious character; but he has since recovered.

At a Court of Common Council, on Thursday, Lord Dudley Stuart, Mr. Thomas Campbell, and other gentlemen connected with the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, attended to present a petition setting forth the distressed condition of the Polish refugees, and praying that the use of Guildhall might be granted, after the 9th of November, in order to a ball for their benefit. On the motion of Mr. Peacock, seconded by Mr. Norris, the prayer was acceded. The preparations are to be on a grand scale, and they begin forthwith.

A deputation from the Metropolitan Anti Bridge Toll Association had the honour of an interview with Lord Wharncliffe, Lord President of the Council, on the occasion of presenting a petition to the Queen in council, numerously signed by merchants, traders, and inhabitants of the metropolis, praying that measures may be taken for throwing open Waterloo, Southwark, and Vauxhall bridges, toll free, for the benefit of the public.

The committee for conducting the City improvements and the approaches to London bridge have directed the immediate sale of several houses in Lad lane, City, to widen the place, and join Cateaton street, which has been within the last few days again thrown open from King street (the main approach to Guildhall) to the Bank and Mansion house. Where the coach way was only open for one carriage, it is now open for four, through Cateaton street.

An immense number of workmen are busily employed erecting two elegant chain suspension bridges over the Regent's Canal.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Thursday, Robert Blakesley was tried before Lord Abinger and Mr. Baron Gurney, for the murder of James Burdon, the landlord of the King's Head public house, in Eastcheap, Sir George Carroll, Sir Chapman Marshall, and Alderman Hooper, were on the bench. Mr. Payne was counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Charles Phillips for the defence. Blakesley, in a subdued tone of voice, pleaded "Not Guilty." He looked pale and thoughtful, and for the most part kept his eyes fixed upon the ground. Mr. Payne narrated how Blakesley murdered Mr. Burdon on the night of the 21st of September. An attempt was made by the counsel for the prisoner to prove that his intellect was affected. Lord Abinger, when he summed up, expressed an opinion that no proof had been given that Blakesley's mind was affected to that degree that he did not know what he was about. The Jury returned a verdict of "Guilty." When Blakesley was called on to say why sentence should not be passed upon him, he raised his right hand, struck it with violence upon his breast, and in a loud voice cried, "So help me God, I am innocent of the intent to murder James Burdon." Lord Abinger then put on the black cap, and sentenced him to death, amid deathlike silence. During the sentence he did not manifest any greater degree of emotion than at any other part of the trial; but he kept his eyes steadfastly fixed upon the floor, and in that state he was removed from the dock.

During the last few days the weather has been most unpleasant, a heavy rain having fallen since Wednesday morning, accompanied by a strong north-easterly wind. Throughout Wednesday night the wind was very violent, and Thursday morning the various parks were strewn with the limbs of broken trees. In Kensington gardens similar devastation took place, while the orchards and garden grounds round the metropolis have suffered severely. In the suburbs of the metropolis numerous tiles and chimney pots were blown off the buildings, and in many instances palings, and even walls, were razed to the ground.

The number of poor inmates of the St. Marylebone workhouse exceeds the amount therein at the most severe period during the last and any preceding winter for several years, namely, 1,750. Great fears are entertained that, as the inclement season advances, the amount of distress and destitution will be increased to such an extent that, without a large rise in the parish rates and an extension of the workhouse, the authorities will be unable to meet the demands for relief made upon them.

The great fast, Bernard Cavanagh, was shut up in a sealed apartment from the 12th to the 21st of October, and exhibited no symptom of exhaustion. The certificate of his confinement is signed by Drs. Blundell, Kenney, and other eminent men, who affixed their seals and held the keys.

PROVINCIAL.

On Wednesday last one of the largest, most respectable, and most influential meetings of the liberal party ever held in the West Riding, took place, at the Court House, Wakefield, (Earl Fitzwilliam in the chair), for the purpose of moving an address to Lord Morpeth, and also to vote some testimonial to the noble lord, in order to show to the country how his supporters appreciated his private virtues and the public services he had rendered to the county, and the kingdom at large. The address expresses, in the most affectionate and grateful terms, the sense of the great party of which the noble lord is so conspicuous an ornament. We quote from it one passage—"There is one point on which your lordship will perhaps permit us to offer our counsel. On the day when, with grace, gentleness, and dignity, such as extorted admiration, even from political opponents, you took your leave of us, we heard from you words which we trust are to be considered only as the expression of a transient feeling; which, though natural at such a time to such a mind, will yield on reflection to a sense of public duty. You declared that, having so long sat in parliament as the representative of this great riding, you were then unwilling to accept a mission from any other constituent body. The day, we trust, will arrive when our dearest interests will again be confided to your immediate care; but your country cannot spare you even till that day. The united empire, suffering under a legislation which turns her most profitable customers, against their will, into her most formidable competitors, has a claim to your services." Several noblemen were present, and the sentiments that were expressed were worthy of the distinguished company and the occasion. The testimonial will be of the most splendid kind.

A dividend of 6s. 8d. in the pound on the effects of Messrs. Price, Jones, and Edwards, bankers of Shrewsbury, has been declared.

On Wednesday the 20th ult., Lord Worsley dined with his constituents and the friends of civil and religious liberty residing in Louth and its vicinity. About 120 gentlemen, consisting mainly of the more opulent farmers in the neighbourhood favourable to his lordship's views, were present. George Alington, Esq., occupied the chair, having his lordship on the right, and being supported by J. W. Yorke, Esq., J. Booth, Esq., the Rev. J. Holt, Vicar of Fulstow, &c.

At Alnwick, on Tuesday week, a public dinner was given to Lord Howick, in celebration of his return for Sunderland, by the liberal electors of North Northumberland. The dinner took place in the theatre, which is the largest room in the town except the Duke's property. Prideaux John Selby, Esq., of Twizell House, was in the chair. Ralph Cary, Esq., of Hedgley; John Clavering, Esq., of Callaby Castle; George Darling, Esq., of Hetton House; and J. S. D. Selby, Esq., of Cheswick House, were in the vice-chairs. After dinner, several ladies entered the gallery, amongst whom were Lady Howick and Lady Georgiana Grey, who were received with loud applause. The Chairman proposed "the health of their noble guest," prefacing the toast with observations on the talent he had displayed in parliament, and the strenuous exertions he had made for the general welfare of the country. Lord Howick responded to the toast in a speech of great eloquence, which occupied one hour and a half in its delivery.

Lord Charles Wellesley and Sir George Seymour are both mentioned as conservative candidates for the representation of the borough of Lynn, in consequence of the vacancy caused by the appointment of Sir Stratford Canning as Ambassador to Constantinople.

The *Nottingham Mercury* contains a number of cases of tenants who have been driven from their premises by the Duke of Newcastle, for having voted contrary to the wishes of his Grace. It is alleged that the statements of the *Nottingham Mercury* are true to the letter.

The municipal elections at Leicester have terminated in the return of twelve liberals and two tories.

A meeting of the deputations from the various trades, work-shops, and mills, was held in Carpenter's Hall, Manchester, on Monday week, to consider the best means to be adopted for effecting the repeal of the corn and provision monopolies. The attendance was very numerous; the gallery and platform were completely filled, and the remainder of the room nearly so. It was announced that Colonel Thompson would attend, but he did not come. At eight o'clock it was proposed that Mr. Watkin should be appointed chairman; this was met by a counter-proposition, on the part of the chartists, that Mr. Bailey, a chartist, should preside. A disturbance took place between the chartists and a body which, according to the report in the *Manchester Guardian*, seems to have been composed chiefly of Irish operatives. The conflict was arrested by Mr. Watkin, who offered to take the chair, with two umpires, a chartist and a corn-law repealer, to revise his decisions should they be disputed. That was agreed to; and Mr. Warren moved a resolution to the effect that the meeting protested against the injustice and injurious operations of the corn and provision monopolies, and pledged itself never to rest satisfied until monopoly was for ever done away with, and compensation for years of misery made by the aristocracy to the labouring millions; Mr. Finnigan seconded the resolution. Mr. Leech, a chartist, seconded by Mr. Rankin, moved as an amendment, that until the working classes were in possession of the franchise, they would never have justice done them from any government. Mr. Acland supported the original resolution; but he was interrupted by another personal contest, in the course of which the Irish drove most of the chartists from the room. The chairman, unable to enforce order, abruptly dissolved the meeting.

On Tuesday week a meeting of the magistrates of Leeds, was held at the Court-house, to take into consideration a memorial from the Operative Enumeration Committee, on the subject of the distress among the unemployed poor, and the overseers of the poor of each township in the borough were invited to attend that meeting, in order to give the magistrates such information as they might respectively possess, with regard to this interesting subject. The attendance was very full, and it was at length determined that the mayor should be requested to obtain from the Enumeration Committee a copy of their returns in detail, that they might be examined by the overseers, and, if correct, that they might receive the sanction of their authority, and such steps be taken as may tend to alleviate the existing distress. It was at the same time recommended to the overseers, that they should be as liberal in the distribution of parochial relief towards the sober and industrious poor, as their sense of public duty would allow; and it was understood that after this examination was gone through, which it was supposed would occupy a fortnight, that such other measures should be taken for raising subscriptions, or otherwise, as may then be deemed expedient.

A very crowded meeting was held at Stockport on Friday last, to consider the best means of alleviating the distress of the labouring classes in that town. The mayor was in the chair, and R. Cobden, Esq., M.P., Mr. Coppock, the Revds. C. Baker and J. Leroyd, with other influential gentlemen, were present. The details of misery given by Mr. Coppock, the town-clerk, were heart-rending. Poverty was advancing with rapid strides in that once flourishing seat of industry. Week after week the quantity of food distributed to the necessitous amounted to a great increase on that of the preceding week. On the 5th of August there were given away to the necessitous 1,500lbs. of bread, 350lbs. of potatoes, 44lbs. of bacon, 347lbs. of meal, and 32lbs. of butter, making a total of 2,363lbs. of food. By the 21st of October, the bread distributed had increased to 4,513lbs., the potatoes to 2,495lbs., the meal to 1,050lbs., butter 3lbs., making a total of 8,061lbs. This increase had not come upon the union all at once, but had gradually and steadily increased; so that there was reason to fear that it had not by very far reached its height. Mr. Cobden showed the absurdity as well as the wickedness of the attempt to attribute the distress to machinery; and entered upon a long course of argument to prove the wisdom of merging the efforts made for the extension of the suffrage, in a strenuous attempt to carry the question of corn-law repeal. A committee was appointed to ascertain the amount of distress in the borough, the cause of that distress, to propose a remedy, and to report thereon to a future public meeting. The meeting, after a vote of thanks to the mayor, separated about twelve o'clock.

The annual show of the Worcestershire Agricultural Society, was held on Friday week, at the new cattle market; and, on the authority of several competent judges, the show of stock has not been surpassed by any of the exhibitions held in the adjoining counties, and far surpassed any previous meeting held in that city. The extra stock exhibited was also of great merit.

At a numerously-attended meeting of the inhabitants of Leamington, it has been at length decided to take vigorous measures for the construction of a branch railway, to connect that fashionable watering-place with the London and Birmingham Railway.

The cloth markets at both Cloth Halls have been quite as dull this week as last, and prices are exceedingly low where sales are effected; this is particularly the case for goods of fine qualities, for although the stocks of this description are smaller than usual, yet such is the market, that the manufacturer cannot sell at prices that will pay him. There has been rather more business done in the warehouses since the 20th ult., but on the whole it has been very dull, and there is a pretty general opinion entertained that business is not likely to improve for some time to come.—*Leeds Mercury*.

Every week of the present month has made the winding up of the harvest and the prospects of the country more unfavourable and gloomy. The corn crops in some of the northern and hilly districts have been quite ruined; and, owing to the excessive quantity of rain, the potatoes in many parts of England and Ireland have rotted in the ground, so as very seriously to diminish the quantity of food for the people. The price of corn is consequently on the advance, and the ports would soon be opened again for the admission of corn at the lowest duty, if it were not that the bad quality of much of the new wheat keeps down the averages. Trade continues to be in a wretchedly depressed state both in Yorkshire and Lancashire; and there is the prospect of a winter of the most severe suffering, if not of terror. There have recently been many incendiary fires in the agricultural districts: by what parties they are committed is yet unknown, but it is certain that such fires usually occur in times of distress, however criminal and infatuated are the incendiaries.—*Leeds Mercury*.

The waters are out to a great extent along the borders of the Witham, in the neighbourhood of Southrow, Bardney, Horsington, &c.; for a considerable distance, indeed, the fields present the appearance of immense lakes, and unless a change should very speedily take place, much of the seed wheat must remain unsown.—*Lincoln Mercury*.

The mountains have again assumed their snowy mantles, and everything promises that we shall have a long and rigorous winter. The various wild fowl, whose early appearance generally denotes a severe season, have, it is said, already appeared in great numbers on the various coasts of the kingdom.—*Carnarvon Herald*.

At Lewes, on Friday, Stephen Stedman, John Pockney, and Charles Briggs, were brought before the Earl of Chichester, and Mr. Blackman, the sitting magistrates, charged with the wilful murder of Hannah Devonshire, alias Smith, at Ringmer, on the 29th of June, 1838. The prisoner Stedman was respectably attired in a suit of black. He appeared much affected at his situation, and was so ill that he was accommodated with a chair during the examination. Pockney and Briggs had the appearance of decent labouring men. They were all fully committed.

IRELAND.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland, accompanied by Lady Sugden, family, and suite, arrived in Dublin, October 28. The right hon. gentleman presided in the Court of Chancery on Monday.

The official return of town councillors was made last week by the late Lord Mayor at the Mansion house, Dublin. It appears from the account signed by the revising barristers, that the numbers stand at present:—

Liberals	47
Tories	13
Majority	—34

At a late meeting of the Dublin Repeal Association, Mr. O'Connell announced his intention of presenting a petition to the House of Commons, in his robes as Lord Mayor, in favour of a Repeal of the Union!

At the weekly meeting of the Repeal Association held on Tuesday week, Mr. O'Connell was saluted by anticipation as Lord Mayor. He announced contributions to the repeal fund from America, received by that day's post, to the amount of 350l.

Mr. Sharman Crawford has written a third letter to the repealers, in reply chiefly to Mr. O'Connell's attacks upon his consistency in having condemned the Union in 1830 and upholding it now. Defection has openly commenced among Mr. O'Connell's repealers: one of the most active, Mr. Thomas O'Brien—"who," to quote his own words, "took no unhonoured part in the agitation of repeal, and won some flattering tributes from its great advocate," has succumbed to Mr. Sharman Crawford's reasoning, and signified his secession in a letter to Mr. Ray, the secretary of the Repeal Association.

A mountain flood carried away several houses in the neighbourhood of Doonbeg, County Clare, on Sunday last, with the loss of two lives.

SCOTLAND.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council, on Tuesday, a letter was read from Sir James Graham to the Lord Provost, dated October 13th, declining to establish a new Professorship in the University of Edinburgh and to attach to it one of the endowments of the Deans of the Chapel Royal.

Mr. Candlish, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Maitland Makgill Crichton, and Mr. Leckie, have started on a new tour of non-intrusion agitation; the countenance of the conservatives not being sufficiently trusted to forego the "pressure from without." Mr. Crichton has been reviving the spirit in Ayrshire. Mr. Candlish is reported to have made this declaration at Perth—"Let it be clearly understood—let there be no misapprehension on the point—that the church will accept of no settlement that touches in the slightest degree the sacredness of her discipline in the matter of the Strathbogie ministers. If the legislature offer us the very best measure, even the abolition of patronage, with

one hand, and with the other require us to restore these men to the ministry, we will reject the boon so clogged with scorn, as foully disowning to Him from whom we derive infinitely more than the state can give us. The church has perilled all her honour, her integrity, upon that act of discipline; and if she consent to any compromise, the sooner she ceases to be an establishment the better."

We have heard that when the movement deputation from the Church of Scotland had their encouraging audience of Sir R. Peel, the premier courteously asked Dr. Gordon, as "moderator," to state what it was they wanted, saying, if he gave him (Dr. Gordon) a *carte blanche*, how would he fill it up? The moderator was a little nonplussed with this, when Mr. J. Hamilton volunteered his services, which, however, Sir Robert declined, observing, that it was to Dr. Gordon the remark had been made, and from him he expected an answer. The Doctor then, as is rumoured, said the deputation wished their memorial to be taken into consideration by government, when Sir Robert rejoined— "Assuredly, their memorial would be taken into deliberate consideration." And thus terminated the audience.—*Edinburgh Observer.*

The outstanding crops have suffered severely from the rains of the last three or four weeks. In the later districts, a great quantity of grain is still exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather, and all competent judges agree in stating, that the quality of the crop has become, in consequence, very much deteriorated. On equally good authority, we are warranted in saying, that the yield will be considerably below an average crop. We regret to learn that the potatoes also are at once deficient in quantity and of indifferent quality, especially in rich soils, where, owing to the excessive moisture, this useful and indispensable esculent is found in many instances to be rotten at the core. Such being the general state of the crops, it is not to be wondered at that the markets continue to look up.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

(*Examiner.*)

FRANCE AND SPAIN.

The French Government is determined to play, not the *Medecin malgré lui*, but the *Medecin malgré le patient*. Louis Philippe has taken it into his head that Spain is in a very bad way, and tormented by a grievous disorder, and he is determined, without at all consulting the patient, to apply a remedy. In the eyes of that Royal practitioner, Louis Philippe, Spain is in the worst stage of a democratic fever, and he insists on Spain swallowing the little *Duc d'Aumale* by way of potion. The young duke is, it seems, a *febrifuge*, and indeed all the little princes of the Orleans dynasty are so many political *James's Powders*. When rightly taken, it is astonishing the calming effect they have upon the public pulse. All know Scott's story of the hospitable gentleman, who, over and above his hospitality, insisted on his guest's swallowing a *leettle Anderson*, being a pill of that name, by way of sovereign *panacea*. The same hospitable *mania* has got into the noddle of Louis Philippe. He has been very kind to Spain, and he insists that, out of gratitude, she shall swallow a *leettle Orleans*. The inhospitable part of it is, however, that Louis Philippe employs bayonets to overcome the patient's aversion, and instead of marching into Spain, as would be more fitting, with the usual *attirail* of one of Molière's doctors, it is with gun and trumpet he marches, declaring, "Take my *principicule*, or ____." Spain, however, is about the most stubborn and perverse patient that ever political doctor had to do with, and much more likely to throw the Esculapius out of the window than accept his prescription. And accordingly, at the first burst of his choler, Louis Philippe has recoiled. The latter, however, has not abandoned his victim. He still insists on the existence of the malady, and has sent couriers to call a consultation of state physicians. Metternich and Nesselrode are summoned to examine the state of the case. Now these are what are commonly called mad-doctors—men who see lunacy in frowardness, and mental alienation in the least talk of liberty. The mad-doctors will infallibly order the patient into a strait-waistcoat; and this is precisely what the Esculapius of the Tuilleries requires. He wishes to punish Spain for not taking his *principicule*, and he should be delighted to be the vindictive agent of the great eastern *medici* in putting the strait-waistcoat on naughty Spain. Oh! Louis Philippe, thou panegyrised by Peel and belauded by Russell, poor, English, simple politicians, why hast not a Molière, or a Paul Louis Courrier to do thee justice.

The most amusing and bare-faced part of this business is, that whilst the French Court avowed its project in their recognised journal, the diplomatic contradiction was as vehement as the printed assertion; and Lord Aberdeen chooses, or affects to believe the complete innocence of the French cabinet. Since his lordship's assumption of the ministry, he has shown not merely a natural anxiety to be on good terms with both Austria and France, but is ready to make all kinds of sacrifices to them. It were very well, if these sacrifices really brought any friendship; but, on the contrary, both Louis Philippe and Metternich have received one or two such flagrant proofs of the "travelled Thane's" old womanishness, that they have become quite bold and enterprising. Lord Palmerston was a *crâne* in his way. He blustered and menaced, and was so wicked as to put diplomacy in a constant fever. The King of the French and the Prime Minister of Austria were kept in a continual cold perspiration, fearing and wondering what Palmerston would say and do next; and their fears kept these old gentlemen from any active attempt. But now it is England's turn to act the trembler, while Louis Philippe has turned *crâne* and enterprising. No political adventurer ever planned or tried to execute a more daring or more foolish scheme than the Moderado conspiracy. Thus it is, when people will step out of their characters, when craft becomes audacious and caution' enterprising, they commit far greater blunders than when persons born to be audacious follow the bent of their temper, and carry fortune by storm.

Meantime, the Spanish Government has completely righted itself, an discovered the fierce shock of the passing tempest. It has flung itself on the people, ordered all the troops to the north, and left the capital, the central and southern provinces to the inhabitants organised in the national militia. The leader of the attack on the palace has been executed; an inevitable decree, though its weight fell on a soldier whose gallantry excused his light-headedness. Meantime, Vittoria surrendered to a mere chief of constitutional *guerrillas* commanding a few companies, and Christina's Provisional Governor, who had just set a price on the head of Zurbano, was given up by his own escort to this same Zurbano. At Bilbao and Tolosa the soldiers, won over to mutiny by false representations, refused to combat their comrades still under the banners of the constitution. The chiefs have fled, and the Fuerist insurrection has disappeared.

In Paris Senhor Olozaga, Spanish Envoy, the most moderate of the *Exaltados*, had all along declared himself for not taking the guardianship from Christina, and for not driving her to desperation. This has rendered him suspected to the thorough liberals at Madrid; but Espartero, who is also a moderate *Exaltado*, supports Olozaga. The latter summoned Christina to avow or disavow the insurrection. Christina has contrived to do both, and it may be said she has both avowed and disavowed it. Olozaga

demanded of the French Government her removal from Paris; this has been refused; but it is felt on all hands, that henceforth Christina ceases to be a personage of importance: party or followers she can never have; she is henceforth Mrs. Munoz, and no more: but this very fact strengthens the cause of Carlos, for many of the now desperate Moderados will rally to his standard, or rather to that of his son, as the pretender to Isabella's hand. By this Spanish politics enter into a new phase, which it is as yet, however, too early to describe.

(*Speculator.*)

FINE WRITING.

FOR fine writing we entertain a disinterested love, that enables us to relish it even when employed in the advocacy of views which do not entirely coincide with our own. Hence we have been enabled to relish the beautiful oration with which *Blackwood's Magazine* for October, in the article entitled "Prospects under the Peel Ministry," has celebrated the avatar of the new Government.

"The change that has just occurred," says the eloquent writer referred to, "has been occasioned not by an effort, but by the cessation of all effort—by the operation of natural forces, which have for a time been suspended or overpowered by extraordinary interference. The bent bow returns with eagerness to its ordinary *laxity*. The uplifted weight rushes back, when it can, to its proper level. These processes are emblematic of what is now going on. The nation is falling again into its ordinary condition; in which its natural tendencies will, without difficulty, retain it until some extraordinary cause shall excite it once more to act in contradiction to its ordinary laws of cohesion and gravitation."

Mark the intense unity of sentiment which runs through the imagery of this splendid passage. The nation is represented as reverting to its "natural condition;" that condition being, if we may trust the reports from various districts, one of very considerable ailment. This being the case, all the figures of speech droop in harmony, like the branches of a weeping willow. The uplifted weight (possibly a voidrupoise) rushes back, "when it can," as the anxiously veracious author qualifies the assertion, to its natural level; the cessation of effort leaves everything to "the laws of cohesion and gravitation," and consequently "the nation is falling." The paragraph seems to impregnate the very atmosphere with the falling sickness: it might have been penned by the Croker of Goldsmith's comedy—not of the *Quarterly Review*—with such gusto does it dwell upon these melancholy images.

The bent bow, returning with eagerness to "its ordinary laxity," at once redeems the passage from monotony and prepares the reader for what he is to meet with a little further on. It is a note touched, and, with great art, not insisted upon; it is scarcely noticed at the time, but it imperceptibly attunes the mind to the sentiment afterwards inculcated—

"Men will know with some certainty the worth both of their own property and that of their neighbours; and will thus have a standard for fixing both what they may expend on themselves and what they may invest in the hands of others."

The political principles of the writers are here delicately insinuated. "Redeunt Saturnia regna"—the time is returning when he will have an interest in the property of his neighbour as well as his own. Already he is weighing in his mind how much of his property that neighbour is to be allowed to retain ("what they may invest in the hands of others,"), how much the statesmen by the aid of the tax-gatherer may appropriate ("what they may expend on themselves"). The advantage of preparing the reader for this revelation by warning him that the bow returns to "its ordinary laxity" is obvious.

Some hints are given of the use likely to be made by the conservative statesmen of their recovered power. The writer observes, that, "under certain honourable limitations," the whig observation "that Sir Robert Peel is at this moment free to do anything that he pleases," is true. The conservatives, he is glad to say, "came into power without having held out any promises or professions." "In this state of things, there is no risk of that reaction which springs from over-excited hopes, or of that resentment which is due to violated engagements. The nation would have no specific cause of complaint even if Peel should do little more than Melbourne—and no human contrivance could possibly bring it about that he should do less." The inuendo is made still stronger by an allusion to the exact "balance of power" in the ministry: "One portion of its members affords us a sure guarantee that the ministry will attempt nothing that is dangerous; another gives us an ample pledge that they will adopt nothing that is illiberal." In short, the writer having shown that "the nation is falling," is happy to anticipate that ministers will do nothing. "Redeunt Saturnia regna."

The personal compliments paid to individual members of the ministry are equally delicate and felicitous. "The present occupant of the Wool-sack," we are told, "may with remarkable propriety, be cited as an example of the elevation that can be won by the *virtues of the gown*." Of the Premier it is said, that although he has "no primary connexion" with the peerage, he is "in all probability, on the close of his career, destined to become an illustrious ornament" of that order. It is touchingly added—"Of that anticipated promotion, however, we may in passing be permitted to embody an anxious wish under a playful alteration and adaptation of two lines of Horace—

'Serus in cælum ambens, diuque
Lætus intersis populo Quirini.'

And in a note—"We venture on a hasty parody—

Late to the Lords may you receive your summons,

And long remain to lead the House of Commons."

The identification of *cælum* with the House of Lords is evidently suggested by the presence of the bishops; and our recollections of the flattering epithets bestowed by *Blackwood* upon Sir Robert Peel when he carried Catholic Emancipation, affords room for a curious conjecture as to the class of whom the writer under review would incline to say—"of such is that kingdom of Heaven." The old grudge to the baronet seems not altogether forgotten. From a quotation made above, it is clear that, while the Stanley and Graham section of the cabinet affords a guarantee that "nothing that is liberal" need be feared, the Peel section only affords security that "nothing that is dangerous" will be attempted. Timidity is charged directly, and illiberality by implication.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, November 3, 1841.

Mr. O'Connell was chosen Lord Mayor of Dublin on Monday. He was proposed by Mr. Arabin, and seconded by Mr. George Roe. On a division, there were about forty votes for Mr. O'Connell, and not more than seven or eight against him. On taking his seat he said, that in his character of Lord Mayor he should totally repudiate politics, for in that capacity he should have no politics whatsoever.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY.

The supply of English wheat is small, and no Foreign is as yet received.

Monday's prices are fully supported, but there is very little business doing.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In answer to a correspondent from Cheshire, we know of no Condensed Commentary equal to that by Ingram Cobbin. "Henry Edwards." It is not our habit to insert already published letters.

"James Humphry's."—J. E.—B. W.—received.

X. Y. Z's offer is declined.

"Arphaxad" declined.

"A Lover of Freedom" must give his name.

"A well-wisher to the *Nonconformist*" must excuse us. For the sake of friends, we deem it scarcely kind to record publicly the freaks of a madman.

The subject of Diocesan Schools next week.

We should feel obliged if any of our friends will supply us with Nos. 1, 10, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, of the *Nonconformist*, for which full price will be given.

We respectfully request our country friends, in all possible cases, to give their orders to the news agents in their respective localities; where this is impracticable, the better way is to send the amount of subscription (26s. per annum) by post-office order, direct to the office, which will secure the regular transmission of the paper to their address.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1841.

PRACTICAL MEN AND IMPRACTICABLES.

THERE is a kind of wisdom much in vogue in these days, the whole purport and bearing of which may be summed up in four words, "Get what you can." Of this divinity the whigs were, until recently, the high priests, and the Wards, Wakleys, and Baineses, the most distinguished votaries. It busies itself with no small concern about details. Its trophies are "instalments." Its chief and most plausible maxim is, that "everything got is something gained." It teaches us to be thankful for "small mercies"—to leave the morrow, and catch all that comes within reach to-day. It is a wisdom well suited to little minds—it saves thought—it dispenses with reflection—it lays no tax upon patience—it enjoys the hour as it flies. Its sacrifices are always prospective rather than present, and it will sell a birthright not yet enjoyed, for a mess of pottage to be had immediately. It is the wisdom of the tyro chess player who, without plan and eager for booty, dashes away at every petty pawn of his adversary, enjoys his triumph, and secures for himself—check-mate.

We have had enough of this wisdom of late—nor should we now advert to it but with a view to notice the self-complacent sneers with which those who play a somewhat deeper game are greeted by its advocates. To set before one's self an end, true in principle, vast in importance, and worthy of achievement—to constitute it a primary object of pursuit—to forbear, in prudence, the temporary triumphs which would greatly retard, if not wholly prevent, its attainment—to stand aloof from paltry party encounters, and reserve one's energies for real struggles—to look ahead, and make calculations, and out of these to weave a comprehensive plan and adhere to it—all this, in the cant of the school we refer to, is to be "an impracticable man." Nothing can surpass the smile—half pity and half condescension—with which these self-dubbed practical men receive a project which looks beyond two sessions for its accomplishment. To all the reasoning adduced in support of it they have one reply—"impracticable"—and this must satisfy understanding, will, and all.

These ephemeral philosophers have recently had it all their own way. The reins were in their own hands. They cut, and crept, and threatened, and wheedled, and made wholesale demands, and took infinitesimal instalments, just as it suited them. And where have they landed us?—in toryism. It is vain for them to urge in their defence, that had they been duly supported they would have accomplished quite other things. Simpletons! Did they never see that the command of the requisite support was the very thing which every plan of policy ought, in the long run, to secure? Is this the only practical statesmanship worthy of a thought in modern days, which leaves out of view altogether its own perpetuation? Worse than childish is it to quarrel with the people for not upholding them against rampant conservatism! Had their wisdom been of a sort which looks an inch before the nose, they ought to have foreseen the evil and provided against it. To any party not wholly intent upon "instalments" it would have been one element in the calculation—and with as much reason might our chess-player, when suddenly check-mated, declare that had he penetrated his adversary's real design, he would never have left his king unguarded, as may these worshippers of the "practical" complain of the apathy of the people. Let it be remembered that the game has been lost, not by the impracticables, but by your zealous practical men. Looking at the present blank and cheerless condition of public affairs, at the ninety-one majority, at the ultra composition of the cabinet, at the complete stand-still of the reform cause, the former may with reason address the latter in the words of Macbeth

"—Thou can't not say I did it."

So long as these statesmen kept out the tories, their denunciations of those who saw further than themselves, were clothed with some pretence of reason. Now, however, that they have demonstrated their own utter incompetence to cope with the common foe, we are somewhat at a loss to understand them. We see no reason why comprehensive reform must give precedence to the "instalment" system,

when the proof is patent, that ever since that system was adopted, we have progressively lost ground. It seems but fair that "the impracticables" should be allowed to pursue their course, unmolested by the sneers of whig organs, their wiser brethren having only succeeded in running us all aground. If the plans recently proposed for harmonising the middle and the labouring classes involve anything *per se* objectionable, let it be honestly pointed out. To such a course no sincere and rational man would be disposed to demur—or let such parties, show how they intend to wring a repeal of our corn laws from the legislature constituted as it is at present. But the everlasting reiteration of one inapplicable epithet disgusts us—and we are sometimes compelled to suspect, that it is employed only as a *ruse de guerre*, to hark the people away from what the middle classes admit to be just, but feel disinclined to grant.

There is another kind of wisdom which we command to the approval of "practical men" as infinitely superior in nature, and usually productive of far more splendid results, than that upon which we have thought fit to animadvert. It consists in daring to be just. It casts itself upon the broad sympathies of mankind, appeals to their consciousness of right, cherishes open-hearted sincerity, and recognises in man, as man, somewhat to command respect, affection, confidence. It sits under the shadow of truth which can never die. It affects no superiority of nature. It eschews mere dexterity—it shuns all cant and hypocrisy. It is content to "bide its time"—certain that eventual and permanent success can be secured by principle alone. This is a wisdom which never yet dwindled away a majority—never lost a foot of ground which it had once secured. It lays right hold of the hearts of men—and increases in power as it proceeds, until it overbears all opposition.

To the exercise of this higher kind of wisdom the times are peculiarly favourable. The trimmers and the pedlars have had their day, and miserably have they failed. They are now trying their hands upon a modification of the corn laws, and still their cry is "Get what you can." We tell them that the end proposed, valuable as it is, is partial, selfish, favourable chiefly to class-interests—and as such will never excite that national enthusiasm before which toryism would fly as the chaff before the storm. The masses are well aware that were this commercial reform once obtained, any political reform which would elevate them above their present degraded position, would be indefinitely postponed. Why should we labour to deceive them? Why represent what a moment's reflection might convince us is a delusion, that the repeal of the corn laws would be a step towards the extension of the suffrage? Why is it deemed unwise at this moment to agitate for political equality in preference to the abolition of the food monopoly, but simply on the ground that the middle classes are prepared for the latter, but are not prepared for the former? And shall we tell the people, that the middle classes who refuse to give to every man a vote, as a means to an end they hold to be all important, will be the more willing to extend the right, after they have obtained the one thing which they want? What is it that the represented classes wait for? What holds them back? We must not conceal it. They are influenced by feeling—aristocratic feeling—the feeling which says to the poor man "Stand by thyself—for I am richer than thou?"

To the poor, the unrepresented, the Pariahs of our political world, the abolition of the provision laws would be undoubtedly an inestimable boon—and they have been severely censured for not seeing their own interest. Their own interest! Does a man's interest mainly consist in bread and cheese? Is mere animal life to take precedence of liberty? For our own parts, when we see our teeming population retire to their citadel, and stand the cruel siege of raging appetites, even to the death, rather than surrender the contest for the rights of their manhood—when we witness men rising in all the consciousness of intelligent and moral being above hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, and calmly demanding that their station be assigned them alongside their fellow-men—when we behold them choosing enfranchisement before bread, and submitting to starvation rather than resign their claim to political recognition and respect—we are compelled to confess, these men are no blunderers. The essential dignity of man looks out from their haggard countenances. The indomitable self-respect which will be crushed rather than bow the knee to animal want—we cannot blame—we verily admire. All the elements of true greatness are there—whatever there is in us above the brute vibrates in response to this silent but stern appeal—and we say, men who can act thus, are worthy of what they claim, and give the best proof that what they so nobly seek, they will nobly use.

In reply to all this we are told that what the labouring classes seek is impracticable—that nothing can be gained from the House of Commons but through the middle class—that they are opposed to an extension of the suffrage—that on the other hand the repeal of the provision laws is a middle class question—and that what we can get first we should first struggle for. Aye! if the one followed the other in the chain of natural sequence. But it does not. Besides, what constitutes the difficulty in the way of organic reform? The disinclination of the middle classes to work it out? Why? Colonel Thompson, Mr. Cobden, and numberless others for whom we entertain profound respect, and whose sincerity we never questioned, are numouring the disinclination, instead of wrestling with it. These gentlemen are the leaders of the middle classes, and were they to declare for full representation as a means to just legislation, there are thousands, whom they know not, ready to join them—men of intelligence, earnestness, zeal, activity, who pant for an opportunity of aiding a movement which they can believe to be effectual. The middle class want leading by men whom they can trust—and were they but told by authority in which they have confidence, that the time is come for searching and complete organic reform, they

would not be far behind. This was the rock upon which the whigs split. They took municipal councillors, and newly-created magistrates to represent, if they did not constitute, the middle class. And they went on disgusting one after another by their inactivity, until their folly found them out at a general election. We venture to affirm, that the distaste for organic reform is not with the great body of the middle classes, but with their leaders. They want not courage, but the word of command. It is "the practical men" who smother the immense mass of sound opinion resident in the minds of our middle classes. If they would dare to become "impracticables" they would find themselves possessed of a power which would astonish by its unexpected magnitude, none more than themselves.

THE PRACTICAL LIMITS OF THE FRANCHISE DEFINED.

It is one thing to recognise a right; it is another and much more difficult one to give to that right a complete practical expression. In the case of the franchise, however, the machinery required for the full development of the principle is scarcely more complex than the principle itself. The limits within which the exercise of the suffrage must be confined are so simple in character, so obviously appropriate, so clearly cognisable by common sense, as to lie open to no cavils but such as may be urged by inveterate prejudice or class antipathies. These limits we shall proceed to describe; and we anticipate with no small confidence that if, at the conclusion of our task, our readers will take the trouble of looking again at the objections they may happen to entertain to the position we have sought to establish, they will find that by far the larger portion of those objections is cut off and rendered wholly irrelevant by the simple process of definition. We will not do them the injustice of supposing that, when the system we urge upon their adoption has been displayed in all its features, they will continue to frighten themselves with bugbears conjured up by their own perverted fancy. We take it for granted, they will drop at once and for ever all that idle clamour against the admission of their fellow-men to an equitable participation of political power, which has meaning only when levelled against a thing which is contended for by nobody, and which when directed against such an extension of the franchise as that which we, in common with the great body of the labouring classes propose, is mere *brutum fulmen*—sound without sense.

We have admitted, and, until some defect in our reasoning has been pointed out, we shall consider ourselves to have proved, the right of all men who contribute to the support of government, to exercise over the formation and administration of that government such a proportionate influence as the electoral franchise will give him. The right, however, is not without restrictions. It supposes that they who wield it be good subjects—it supposes that they be independent men—and it supposes that they be men whom government shall be able to identify as being what they profess to be. These are no arbitrary restrictions. They grow up of necessity out of the very nature of the right for which we contend. They are part and parcel of it, without which it can have no practical being.

1. Protection and allegiance, or in other words, political power and submission to the law, are correlatives. If governments are not in justice entitled to demand obedience when they cease to afford the protection to society for which they were established, so on the other hand, subjects who have thrown off their allegiance and stand convicted by a legal tribunal of an infraction of the laws of their country, forfeit all claim to a control over national affairs. The compact is broken. The culprit having kicked against the good order of society, is rightly excluded from a participation of its privileges. Otherwise the very end of government is lost in the means by which it is sought to be attained, and organised society becomes impossible. Here, then, we have the first limitation of the proposed right—not capricious, but reasonable and self-evident. The possession of the franchise pre-supposes a uniform submission to the law of the land, and every man legally convicted of crime forfeits thenceforth his title to the suffrage. Let us hear no more therefore of the votes of honest men being swamped by those given by the refuse of society, the sweepings of our gaols and houses of correction. Let us not do the industrious classes wrong. They never claimed this at our hands. They are neither so foolish nor so wicked.

2. Political power and personal independence must stand or fall together. This is no new doctrine. Our forefathers recognised it. Feudal serfs they excluded from the franchise, and, practically, none but feudal serfs. This we may take some future occasion of proving. Meanwhile, every one must admit, that parties whose actions are under the legal control of others, who in the eye of law are not their own masters, free to choose their own occupation, and enjoy for themselves the proceeds of their own labour, can hardly be invested with the responsibility of the franchise. This limitation excludes all minors and paupers. Not until the age of twenty-one years does a man in this country attain to the station of an independent freeman; and when dependent upon the resources of society, so as to take from, instead of adding to, the general stock, as in the case of the recipients of parish relief, he may be regarded as foregoing his independence. A receiver of public money, for which no equivalent return is made, clearly has no right to a voice in the imposition of taxes. He pays nothing to the state. He is himself an incumbrance upon it. He cannot equitably claim, therefore, to have any control over its movements.

3. The right to the suffrage clearly supposes that society, or in other words—government, the organ of society, shall be able to identify us as being whom and what we profess to be. Innumerable frauds would else be the consequence. Vagrants, foreigners, and criminals, whose term of punishment had expired, might hurry from

polling place to polling place, and sweep away the real sense of the constituents by fictitious votes. Out of this danger arises the necessity of associating the franchise with a local habitation, and with such a term of residence as may prove an effectual guarantee against fraudulent proceedings. Such a guarantee is afforded by six months residence in the district within which the voter claims to record his vote. It matters nothing to the state whether the party be a householder or a lodger. In either case he tells society his whereabouts, and furnishes the opportunity of proving or disproving his own statement respecting himself. This would render necessary an annual registration; and the arrangement might be rendered perfect by a provision, that each individual should be registered and should vote within the parish in which he resides.

Such, then, is the franchise for which the labouring classes contend. The right thus defined and limited we are cheerfully disposed to grant them. They ask no more—they say they will receive no less. We put it now in all seriousness to our friends of the middle class to say what valid reason there exists against frankly allowing the claim? Let us beware how we cherish in ourselves those prejudices of *caste* which we deprecate so strongly in the aristocracy. And whilst we are seeking our own rights, let us see to it well that we be furnished with ample reason for continuing to withhold the just rights of our fellow-men. We have needlessly alarmed ourselves with a phantom, one calm and steady glance at which might surely suffice to dispel the illusion.

We are aware that with the great body of liberal constituents, household suffrage is the favourite measure. We prefer the franchise as defined above—and we dare affirm, that nothing but calm discussion is wanting, to make its superiority obvious to all reformers. It would not add to the constituency created by household suffrage above one sixth—the class added would not lower either in intelligence or respectability the great electoral body—it is based on the principle that rights belong to man and not to property—and it would once for all settle the question, and heal the unhappy division at present rending society in twain. We cannot see how the party who adopt household suffrage, can hesitate in extending the right in all its entirety to the people. Not a single argument can be urged against the latter, which does not bear with equal power against the former. Let us have COMPLETE SUFFRAGE, in preference to any compromise.

GLEAMS OF SUNSHINE FROM THE WEST.

So M'Leod is acquitted—and yet the world stands where it did. We imagined the whole North to be in a state of intense ferment on this question—and yet the court-house at Utica during the protracted trial was anything but crowded. We were told that if set at liberty he would be torn to pieces by an infuriated populace, and we looked to see the federal government moving towards the north a formidable power, with a view to vindicate its menaced authority; but M'Leod goes out of court unguarded, retires to his hotel, sleeps there, and leaves Utica on the following morning, just as if nothing whatever had happened. Do we complain of our agreeable disappointment? Not at all—it gives us unfeigned satisfaction to see that the Americans are not what some parties have laboured hard to represent them—mere fizzing combustibles, ready to take fire from every spark struck out of their national vanity by untoward events. But then who misled us? Not the British press, but the American—not, we believe, with a serious view to mischief, but rather to indulge in that tone of ridiculous swagger, which does more than all else on the other side of the Atlantic to dispel those feelings of respect which a great people could not otherwise fail to command. That the Americans are a brave nation nobody doubts—rather, we may say, nobody would be disposed to doubt, but for the blether they make about it—and they may rest assured that nothing injures their national reputation more deeply than the incessant din of exaggeration, menace, and boast, kept up by a small party, through the medium of American organs, whose interests would gain by war between the countries. We congratulate ourselves, and we congratulate them, on the result of this affair—more especially as our own authorities in Canada have surrendered the man Grogan into their hands. Thus the clouds which looked dark and ominous in that quarter are rolling off, and unexpectedly, but most cheerily, gleams of sunshine come dancing towards us from the West.

THE TENDER MERCIES OF MISRULE.

It is no new thing that toryism should look with disfavour upon large towns. There the moral soil is not so favourable to its healthy growth as in the quiet retreats of rustic life. So it has ever been with despotism. And what is toryism, in practical operation, but a licensed despotism? What is it, but man's natural selfishness and love of arbitrary power embodied and reduced to system in as pure a form as modern society will endure? Curiously modified it has been, it is true, by the course of events, but its vital characteristics have been sufficiently traceable in all the phases of its fortunes; and they have been mainly these—a determination to keep back as much as it has dared of popular rights, and to grasp as much as it could of popular wealth. On these points the cavalier of the seventeenth century (to go no farther back) and his successors, the partisans of absolutism ever since, down to the anti-reform-bill tories and the post-reform-bill conservatives, have maintained a wonderful agreement. The constancy of this party—for one and the same party they have been throughout, representing the same interests and maintaining the same principles—the constancy of this party to its distinguishing doctrines has only been equalled by its versatility in carrying them out in practice, and by the tact it has displayed, as it has been driven from one post after

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In answer to a correspondent from Cheshire, we know of no Condensed Commentary equal to that by Ingram Cobbin. "Henry Edwards." It is not our habit to insert already published letters.

"James Humphry's."—J. E.—B. W.—received.

X. Y. Z's offer is declined.

"Arphaxad" declined.

"A Lover of Freedom" must give his name.

"A well-wisher to the *Nonconformist*" must excuse us. For the sake of friends, we deem it scarcely kind to record publicly the freaks of a madman.

The subject of Diocesan Schools next week.

We should feel obliged if any of our friends will supply us with Nos. 1, 10, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, of the *Nonconformist*, for which full price will be given.

We respectfully request our country friends, in all possible cases, to give their orders to the news agents in their respective localities; where this is impracticable, the better way is to send the amount of subscription (26s. per annum) by post-office order, direct to the office, which will secure the regular transmission of the paper to their address.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1841.

PRACTICAL MEN AND IMPRACTICABLES.

THERE is a kind of wisdom much in vogue in these days, the whole purport and bearing of which may be summed up in four words, "Get what you can." Of this divinity the whigs were, until recently, the high priests, and the Wards, Wakleys, and Baines, the most distinguished votaries. It busies itself with no small concern about details. Its trophies are "instalments." Its chief and most plausible maxim is, that "everything got is something gained." It teaches us to be thankful for "small mercies"—to leave the morrow, and catch all that comes within reach to-day. It is a wisdom well suited to little minds—it saves thought—it dispenses with reflection—it lays no tax upon patience—it enjoys the hour as it flies. Its sacrifices are always prospective rather than present, and it will sell a birthright not yet enjoyed, for a mess of pottage to be had immediately. It is the wisdom of the tyro chess player who, without plan and eager for booty, dashes away at every petty pawn of his adversary, enjoys his triumph, and secures for himself—check-mate.

We have had enough of this wisdom of late—nor should we now advert to it but with a view to notice the self-complacent sneers with which those who play a somewhat deeper game are greeted by its advocates. To set before one's self an end, true in principle, vast in importance, and worthy of achievement—to constitute it a primary object of pursuit—to forbear, in prudence, the temporary triumphs which would greatly retard, if not wholly prevent, its attainment—to stand aloof from paltry party encounters, and reserve one's energies for real struggles—to look ahead, and make calculations, and out of these to weave a comprehensive plan and adhere to it—all this, in the cant of the school we refer to, is to be "an impracticable man." Nothing can surpass the smile—half pity and half condescension—with which these self-dubbed practical men receive a project which looks beyond two sessions for its accomplishment. To all the reasoning adduced in support of it they have one reply—"impracticable"—and this must satisfy understanding, will, and all.

These ephemeral philosophers have recently had it all their own way. The reins were in their own hands. They cut, and crept, and threatened, and wheedled, and made wholesale demands, and took infinitesimal instalments, just as it suited them. And where have they landed us?—in toryism. It is vain for them to urge in their defence, that had they been duly supported they would have accomplished quite other things. Simpletons! Did they never see that the command of the requisite support was the very thing which every plan of policy ought, in the long run, to secure? Is this the only practical statesmanship worthy of a thought in modern days, which leaves out of view altogether its own perpetuation? Worse than childish is it to quarrel with the people for not upholding them against rampant conservatism! Had their wisdom been of a sort which looks an inch before the nose, they ought to have foreseen the evil and provided against it. To any party not wholly intent upon "instalments" it would have been one element in the calculation—and with as much reason might our chess-player, when suddenly check-mated, declare that had he penetrated his adversary's real design, he would never have left his king unguarded, as may these worshippers of the "practical" complain of the apathy of the people. Let it be remembered that the game has been lost, not by the impracticables, but by your zealous practical men. Looking at the present blank and cheerless condition of public affairs, at the ninety-one majority, at the ultra composition of the cabinet, at the complete stand-still of the reform cause, the former may with reason address the latter in the words of Macbeth

"—Thou can't not say I did it."

So long as these statesmen kept out the tories, their denunciations of those who saw further than themselves, were clothed with some pretence of reason. Now, however, that they have demonstrated their own utter incompetence to cope with the common foe, we are somewhat at a loss to understand them. We see no reason why comprehensive reform must give precedence to the "instalment" system,

when the proof is patent, that ever since that system was adopted, we have progressively lost ground. It seems but fair that "the impracticables" should be allowed to pursue their course, unmolested by the sneers of whig organs, their wiser brethren having only succeeded in running us all aground. If the plans recently proposed for harmonising the middle and the labouring classes involve anything *per se* objectionable, let it be honestly pointed out. To such a course no sincere and rational man would be disposed to demur—or let such parties, show how they intend to wring a repeal of our corn laws from the legislature constituted as it is at present. But the everlasting reiteration of one inapplicable epithet disgusts us—and we are sometimes compelled to suspect, that it is employed only as a *ruse de guerre*, to hark the people away from what the middle classes admit to be just, but feel disinclined to grant.

There is another kind of wisdom which we commend to the approval of "practical men" as infinitely superior in nature, and usually productive of far more splendid results, than that upon which we have thought fit to animadvert. It consists in daring to be just. It casts itself upon the broad sympathies of mankind, appeals to their consciousness of right, cherishes open-hearted sincerity, and recognises in man, as man, somewhat to command respect, affection, confidence. It sits under the shadow of truth which can never die. It affects no superiority of nature. It eschews mere dexterity—it shuns all cant and hypocrisy. It is content to "bide its time"—certain that eventual and permanent success can be secured by principle alone. This is a wisdom which never yet dwindled away a majority—never lost a foot of ground which it had once secured. It lays right hold of the hearts of men—and increases in power as it proceeds, until it overbears all opposition.

To the exercise of this higher kind of wisdom the times are peculiarly favourable. The trimmers and the pedlars have had their day, and miserably have they failed. They are now trying their hands upon a modification of the corn laws, and still their cry is "Get what you can." We tell them that the end proposed, valuable as it is, is partial, selfish, favourable chiefly to class-interests—and as such will never excite that national enthusiasm before which toryism would fly as the chaff before the storm. The masses are well aware that were this commercial reform once obtained, any political reform which would elevate them above their present degraded position, would be indefinitely postponed. Why should we labour to deceive them? Why represent what a moment's reflection might convince us is a delusion, that the repeal of the corn laws would be a step towards the extension of the suffrage? Why is it deemed unwise at this moment to agitate for political equality in preference to the abolition of the food monopoly, but simply on the ground that the middle classes are prepared for the latter, but are not prepared for the former? And shall we tell the people, that the middle classes who refuse to give to every man a vote, as a means to an end they hold to be all important, will be the more willing to extend the right, after they have obtained the one thing which they want? What is it that the represented classes wait for? What holds them back? We must not conceal it. They are influenced by feeling—aristocratic feeling—the feeling which says to the poor man "Stand by thyself—for I am richer than thou?"

To the poor, the unrepresented, the Pariahs of our political world, the abolition of the provision laws would be undoubtedly an inestimable boon—and they have been severely censured for not seeing their own interest. Their own interest! Does a man's interest mainly consist in bread and cheese? Is mere animal life to take precedence of liberty? For our own parts, when we see our teeming population retire to their citadel, and stand the cruel siege of raging appetites, even to the death, rather than surrender the contest for the rights of their manhood—when we witness men rising in all the consciousness of intelligent and moral being above hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, and calmly demanding that their station be assigned them alongside their fellow-men—when we behold them choosing enfranchisement before bread, and submitting to starvation rather than resign their claim to political recognition and respect—we are compelled to confess, these men are no blunderers. The essential dignity of man looks out from their haggard countenances. The indomitable self-respect which will be crushed rather than bow the knee to animal want—we cannot blame—we verily admire. All the elements of true greatness are there—whatever there is in us above the brute vibrates in response to this silent but stern appeal—and we say, men who can act thus, are worthy of what they claim, and give the best proof that what they so nobly seek, they will nobly use.

In reply to all this we are told that what the labouring classes seek is impracticable—that nothing can be gained from the House of Commons but through the middle class—that they are opposed to an extension of the suffrage—that on the other hand the repeal of the provision laws is a middle class question—and that what we can get first we should first struggle for. Aye! if the one followed the other in the chain of natural sequence. But it does not. Besides, what constitutes the difficulty in the way of organic reform? The disinclination of the middle classes to work it out? Why! Colonel Thompson, Mr. Cobden, and numberless others for whom we entertain profound respect, and whose sincerity we never questioned, are numouring the disinclination, instead of wrestling with it. These gentlemen are the leaders of the middle classes, and were they to declare for full representation as a means to just legislation, there are thousands, whom they know not, ready to join them—men of intelligence, earnestness, zeal, activity, who pant for an opportunity of aiding a movement which they can believe to be effectual. The middle class want leading by men whom they can trust—and were they but told by authority in which they have confidence, that the time is come for searching and complete organic reform, they

would not be far behind. This was the rock upon which the whigs split. They took municipal councillors, and newly-created magistrates to represent, if they did not constitute, the middle class. And they went on disgusting one after another by their inactivity, until their folly found them out at a general election. We venture to affirm, that the distaste for organic reform is not with the great body of the middle classes, but with their leaders. They want not courage, but the word of command. It is "the practical men" who smother the immense mass of sound opinion resident in the minds of our middle classes. If they would dare to become "impracticables" they would find themselves possessed of a power which would astonish by its unexpected magnitude, none more than themselves.

THE PRACTICAL LIMITS OF THE FRANCHISE DEFINED.

IT is one thing to recognise a right; it is another and much more difficult one to give to that right a complete practical expression. In the case of the franchise, however, the machinery required for the full development of the principle is scarcely more complex than the principle itself. The limits within which the exercise of the suffrage must be confined are so simple in character, so obviously appropriate, so clearly cognisable by common sense, as to lie open to no cavils but such as may be urged by inveterate prejudice or class antipathies. These limits we shall proceed to describe; and we anticipate with no small confidence that if, at the conclusion of our task, our readers will take the trouble of looking again at the objections they may happen to entertain to the position we have sought to establish, they will find that by far the larger portion of those objections is cut off and rendered wholly irrelevant by the simple process of definition. We will not do them the injustice of supposing that, when the system we urge upon their adoption has been displayed in all its features, they will continue to frighten themselves with bugbears conjured up by their own puffed fancy. We take it for granted, they will drop at once and for ever all that idle clamour against the admission of their fellow-men to an equitable participation of political power, which has meaning only when levelled against a thing which is contended for by nobody, and which when directed against such an extension of the franchise as that which we, in common with the great body of the labouring classes propose, is mere *brutum fulmen*—sound without sense.

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another, in taking its ground again, and throwing up its defences, from which to resist the onward progress of its ever advancing foe, Every inroad on established exclusiveness it has strenuously resisted, while it has adopted every concession that has been wrung from it, as though embodying its own kindly principles, and converted it into a platform on which to plant its own standard anew.

Toryism, we say, does not flourish so well in large towns as in thinly peopled agricultural districts. Though, from causes which we shall not now stop to specify, it has great power in our cities and boroughs, yet such opposition as it does meet with in its present position of rampant ascendancy, derives from them nearly all its strength. It would be so to a great extent, were there no marked distinction of seeming interests to make it more strikingly apparent. But the larger towns depend chiefly on manufactures. The landed interest, which is principally tory (and much more so in fact than in name) has been constantly aiming to aggrandise itself at the expense of the rest of the community. The effects of this system the manufacturers are the first to feel; and, as is but natural, from them come the loudest demands for its discontinuance. It is only what we might expect from this state of things, if we find tory monopolists betraying a latent feeling of enmity to manufacturing towns in general. Some of their organs however have gone farther than one should have thought they would deem it safe to do in this direction. One of them not long since, was indiscreet enough to give its opinion that England would be great and prosperous still though her principal towns were annihilated; thus delicately hinting its wish that they could be quietly sent to the bottom of the sea at once, and so be no further obstacle to tory and agricultural prosperity. We have not heard of the sentiment being often repeated. It was probably thought more prudent that such effrontery should not frequently be made prominent to public view. Still the real feelings of the party will not be less correctly gathered from the unguarded outbursts of its zeal, than from the more studied, and therefore more cautious development of its plans.

It would doubtless be a great relief to the present government could the idea of the ingenious writer referred to be realised—were the post some morning to bring them the news that Manchester and Stockport, Leeds, Birmingham, Paisley, and some twenty or thirty places of like character, had unaccountably disappeared, nobody knew how or why, and that the sites they occupied but the day before presented now the appearance of an open territory, to be occupied afresh by the farmer or the tradesman, as the case might be. The intelligence, indeed, would come upon our statesmen with the force of an electric shock. It would strike them with awe. There would be many and strong regrets; valued friendships without number suddenly and for ever brought to a close, vast accumulations of wealth snatched away from not a few survivors nearly connected with the ruling party in the state. But these deductions being put out of view, what a happy change would be wrought in the prospects of conservatism! Two or three millions of surplus population got rid of without trouble—the number of the people reduced at once within such limits that they might be readily supplied with food from our own land—the most troublesome and clamorous agitators for change in our long-tried and venerable institutions summarily put out of the way—no hated importations of foreign corn—no commercial ascendancy—the owners of the soil in uncontrolled possession of power—what a long bright course would be opened up to the delighted gaze of the “preponderating” interest! True, there would be a trifling drawback or two when things should begin to move on again. The eight hundred millions would be an awkward item to start with. And then the agriculturist might find that though he had plenty of produce, his best customers were gone, and that he must either keep it himself to rot on his grounds, or take much less for it than he had been used to obtain. The landlord might discover that he must take less for his estates, unless he would consent to receive rent, like tithes, in kind instead of hard cash.

So sudden a transition, therefore, as that we have supposed might after all seem scarcely desirable. It would suit the ruling powers much better to have a system in gradual operation, by which the good effects we have adverted to might be secured, and the rather serious inconveniences avoided. That there are too many people is quite clear to tory wisdom; for, despite the Duke of Wellington's declaration to the contrary, there is not food enough in the country to keep them. We know that all the bread that is produced is consumed, and to meet the deficiency a great deal more is imported; and yet thousands are starving from want. There are too many of us, therefore, for the land to support. What is wanted seems to be, that those who cannot get bread should quietly die off, without unreasonably crying out for what it is manifestly impossible to give them. This is the plan the landed interest is silently attempting to carry into effect. If the masses in the large towns who are now dying in helpless destitution, would not make so much noise about their rights—would only forget that they are men—it could be managed very well for some time to come, and all things would go on smoothly enough. Their generous rulers would not trouble themselves about the matter. It takes a great deal, even now, to make them own that distress exists at all; and when they do agree that there is distress, the acknowledgment of to-day is frittered away by the explanation of to-morrow. As long as possible the demand for justice will assail their ears in vain, and die away in air; and when that can no longer be, they will drown it, if they can, in the still louder tones of party recrimination. Will they succeed in doing so? We think not. The gradual plan of extinguishing the people will not do after all. The *Standard's* witchery must be tried, or the scheme of bringing down population to production will fail. It must be done at once, or not at all.

SUMMARY.

THE most important intelligence of the week is that received from the United States. The country will hear with great pleasure that the two most threatening indications of war between Great Britain and America are happily removed. Grogan, who had been captured by a band of Canadian volunteers, was on the 4th ult., yielded up, at the demand of the United States government, to the inspector of the police by the sheriff of Montreal, to be by him escorted in safety beyond the border. The trial of M'Leod, which lasted eight days, has terminated in his acquittal. The proceedings excited comparatively little interest in the immediate vicinity, and M'Leod left Utica without having been honoured with any testimony of the violence of popular fury. We trust the border question will be speedily adjusted, and the bonds of friendship between the two countries drawn together more closely than ever, by commercial reciprocity.

A conspiracy of a serious character has been detected in Belgium, intended to bring about a counter-revolution. Arrests are being made and two generals have fled.

In Spain the insurrection is at an end. General Montes de Oca has been captured and executed, and sentence of death has been pronounced upon Quiroga y Frias—General Espartero is still at Vittoria—and Madrid remains tranquil.

Domestic news is interesting rather than important. The weather continues wet—“the rain it raineth every day”—the agriculturist complains that seed-time is passing away unimproved—corn rises in price—and everything looks dismal. London has been enlivened by a fire and a forgery—the one in the Tower, the other on the Exchequer. On Saturday night between 10 o'clock and 11, the north-east garrison of the Tower, near the armouries, was discovered to be in flames. The jewels were secured, not however without difficulty. The armoury was totally destroyed. The fire seems to have originated from accident. Of the forgery of exchequer bills, we do nothing more here than indicate the fact, and refer to the report contained in another column. The provinces have seen some political feasting—and much real fasting. Distress abates nothing. Meetings are held here and there, but we can observe no decisive symptoms of union between the middle and the labouring classes. Whilst matters continue thus we are not likely to make way. The tories will do nothing until we can cordially unite.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday afternoon, at the Foreign Office. It was attended by Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Wharncliffe, the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Earl of Haddington, Earl of Ripon, Lord Fitzgerald and Vesci, and Sir Henry Hardinge. The council sat two hours.

Mr. Maule, the Solicitor of the Treasury, had a long interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Friday, at his office in Downing street, and on Thursday afternoon the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney-General, and Mr. Hall, the magistrate, had interviews with the right honourable gentleman relative to the exchequer bills forgeries, about which the greatest activity still prevails. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was in communication on Friday with the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England on the same subject.

The deputation from Paisley in reference to the distressed manufacturers of that town and neighbourhood, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Mr. Baird, Baillie Murray, and Councillor Henderson, had a long interview with Lord Stanley on Friday at the Colonial Office. The deputation was introduced by Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P.

A deputation from the Short-Time Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire, accompanied by Sir J. Becket, and including Messrs. Fleming, Hobson, Leach, Crabtree and Brooke, had an interview with the Right Hon. W. Gladstone on Friday, at the Office of the Board of Trade.

Government are about laying out an enormous sum in strengthening the fortifications of Gibraltar.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

Lord Fitzgerald and Vesci has been appointed the Queen's commissioner for the affairs of India; and Mr. John Lewis Lamotte has been appointed of the corps of gentlemen at arms, on the nomination of Lord Forester.

Lord Ellenborough had an audience of the Queen on Friday last, at Buckingham Palace, and kissed hands on being appointed Governor-General of India.

The Duchesses of Sutherland and Somerset, following the example of her Majesty, have each subscribed £50 to the fund for the relief of the poor in Paisley.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynne and his late visitors recently subscribed £480 to alleviate the distresses of the unemployed miners in Ruabon and Wrexham.

The Marquis of Westminster has presented the munificent donation of £500 to the society for the extinction of the slave-trade, and for the civilisation of Africa.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

FIRE IN LONDON ON SATURDAY LAST.—In addition to the fire at the Tower, one of a very serious description was discovered raging on the premises of Mr. Abel's bed and furniture warehouse, No. 43, Fish-street-hill. The amount of property consumed and damaged is very considerable, and the upper part of the house is nearly gutted.—On the same evening a fire broke out in No. 3, Golden-buildings, a small court next to the New Strand theatre, adjoining Mr. Dickson's, the baker, at the house of a Mr. Cabers. The flames burst forth from the attic, and for a short time threatened the most fearful consequences to the densely crowded neighbourhood, the court being so small that an engine could not be brought to work, except from the house of Mr. Dickson.—Same night an alarming fire broke out in the booking-office of the Green Man and Still, Oxford-street. The flames were first perceived by a passer-by through the fan-light over the door, and an alarm was instantly given. The damage done is not considerable, but had the discovery not been made so soon as it was, the destruction of property would, no doubt, have been very great.

THE FIRE AT SOUTH MOLTON.—Subsequent accounts state that the destruction of houses is far more extensive than was at first supposed, there being no less than 107 levelled to the ground, and the dwellings of nearly 400 families, and not 130, as was stated in the previous accounts of the fire. A day or two after the sad event an investigation was gone into by the magistrates of the town, for the purpose of ascertaining the origin, it having been currently rumoured that the houses had been wilfully fired. Several witnesses were examined, and from their evidence it appeared to have commenced in a brothel, situate on the south side of South-street, near the Globe-inn, at Crook's-cross, and was discovered by the inmates, who were awakened by the ceiling in one of the uppermost rooms falling on them, when the interior of the room was found to be in flames. The awful element advanced with terrible fury for many hours afterwards, levelling every building within its reach, and at last it was stopped by pulling down the houses on each side of the street, which was not effected until a late hour in the morning. There is no reason to suppose but that it was caused purely from accident. Upwards of £300 have been collected for the benefit of the unfortunate families, the chief portion of whom were compelled to take refuge in the union-workhouse, where they still remain. The total loss is stated to exceed £20,000.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—On Wednesday evening, Mr. T. Phillips, the lecturer on Music, attempted to get into a carriage on the Grand Junction railway, at the Harcourt station, after the train had begun to move: he was thrown down, and the carriages passing over his legs, they were broken, and he was otherwise much injured. He only survived but a short time, being killed, it is supposed, partly by fright.—Mr. Low, an attorney, was killed on Thursday, in attempting to jump out of a carriage on the same railway, before the train had stopped. He was knocked down, the carriages passed over him, and the rails were sprinkled with his blood and brains for some distance.

FATAL FALLS FROM WINDOWS.—On Thursday, Charles Watson, a porter in the service of Mr. Newton, of Wardour-street, upholsterer, was stand on the window-sill of a house in Belgrave-square, assisting in removing the blinds, when he lost his footing, and was precipitated head foremost into the area below. He died of the injury within a few hours.—On the same afternoon, at No. 15, Langley-place, Commercial-road, a girl named Elizabeth Falston, whilst cleaning a window, fell from the second-floor with great violence on to the pavement. She was taken up in a state of insensibility and conveyed to the London hospital, where she lies in a hopeless state.

CAUTION TO PARENTS.—On Tuesday evening Henry Baker, a fine boy, about two years of age, living at Hammersmith, was left by his mother in a room where there was a fire, when he got playing with a lighted piece of paper, and set his clothes in flames, and before they could be extinguished he was scorched and burnt in a manner which caused his death shortly afterwards.

UPSETTING OF THE BLYTHE LIFE-BOAT, AND LOSS OF TEN LIVES.—On Thursday morning, the Sibsons, Captain Wood, appeared off Blythe, the sea running very high at the time, when the life-boat was launched for the purpose of communicating with her. Mr. Joseph Hodgson, owner of the Sibsons, Mr. H. Debord, shipowner, and a crew of ten men, embarked in the boat; but before she had proceeded far, she was struck by a heavy sea which capsized her, and she remained bottom upwards. Four of those on board, viz., Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Debord, Henry Kench, and John Hepple succeeded in regaining the boat and clung to her bottom until she drifted ashore; but none of the others were seen any more, and of the above four, only Mr. Hodgson and Henry Kench were saved.

DARING ROBBERY IN LONDON STREETS.—On Thursday night, between nine and ten o'clock, Mrs. Gibson, the wife of Mr. Gibson, artist, Brill-terrace, Somers-town, was attacked in Lincoln's-inn-fields, near Turnstile, Holborn, by a thief, who made a snatch at her basket-reticule, containing her purse with two sovereigns, and some silver, with which he ran up great Queen-street. Mrs. Gibson promptly pursued him, and in the chase she had the misfortune to fall and break her arm. The fellow darted down Wheeler's-court, Great Queen-street, and effected his escape.

INGENIOUS FRAUD.—A fraud of a singular and ingenious description was carried into execution at Brentford fair, and we regret to learn that the parties are likely to escape with the proceeds of their dishonest cleverness. A well-dressed female went to the banking-house of the Messrs. Lemon, and stating very plausibly that she was desirous of sending the sum of 8l. 12s. to the metropolis, and as she could not obtain a post-office money order above 5l., requested, as a matter of personal accommodation, a check for that amount for cash. The bankers, little suspecting the trap thus set, gave the check for "eight pounds twelve shillings," upon their London agents, Messrs. Hankey and Co.; but it has since been ascertained that a "y" was added to the word "eight" and an "o" to the figure "8," and 80l. 12s. drawn for it, leaving a profit of 72l. upon the speculation. This is almost sufficient to make the parties come to the resolution, like our old friend Paul, "never to do a good-natured thing again." The London bankers, we hear, are the real sufferers.—*Essex Herald.*

POPULATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—From the results of the census which has just been concluded, it appears that the population of Great Britain and Ireland in the present year amounts to upwards of twenty-seven millions of souls. The return for the three kingdoms, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, is as follows:—

England and Wales	15,901,981
Scotland	2,624,586
Ireland	8,205,382
Guernsey, Jersey, and Man	124,079

Total 26,856,029

This is exclusive of the army and navy, of merchant seamen afloat, and of all persons travelling abroad, or not under a roof on the night of the 5th of June. Including these classes, the population may be safely taken at twenty-seven millions, which is an increase of about two millions since 1831.

FINE FOR REFUSING AN OATH.—At Norwich City Sessions, which commenced on Tuesday before the Recorder, Isaac Jermy, Esq., the

Grand Jury were about being sworn, when Mr. Macro, woollen draper, London street, presented a letter to the court, addressed to the Recorder. The Town Clerk read the letter, by which it appeared that Mr. Macro did not think it right to take the oath required by a grand juryman, and his objection was, that he read in the bible, "Swear not at all,"—"Above all things, swear not, but let your yea be yea, and nay nay;" and that if he kissed the book containing those sentences, his conscience would dictate that he was doing wrong. The Recorder told Mr. Macro that he considered his scripture annotations totally misapplied, and that if he persisted in refusing to be sworn, he must be fined. Mr. Macro, however, would be neither convinced nor threatened into swearing; he was consequently fined 50l.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN.—Lewis Cornelius, of Milford, Pike county, Pennsylvania, was one of the most remarkable persons, in respect to size, in the present age, and is only excelled by the celebrated Daniel Lambert. Mr. Cornelius was six feet two or three inches high, measured six feet round his body, and just previous to the illness which terminated in his death, weighed 721lbs. He fell off in consequence of sickness, and after death weighed but 685lbs. Such was his extraordinary weight, that an inch rope had to be used for his bed-cord. His wife was a tall spare woman, and his family consists of eight children, the youngest of whom is ten years old. His grown children take after the father in respect to height, one of the sons being 6 feet 14 inches high. The celebrated Daniel Lambert, who stands unrivalled in weight of body, reached, we believe, 739lbs., only 18 more than Mr. Cornelius, and the renown of Daniel has placed him among the wonders of the world. Mr. Cornelius was hardly less remarkable a person, and filled nearly as great a space in the world. The following are the dimensions taken after his death:—Circumference of waist, 6 feet 2½ inches; circumference of body, 8 feet 2 inches; circumference of arm above elbow, 2 feet 2 inches; circumference of arm below elbow, 1 foot 9 inches; circumference of wrist, 1 foot 3 inches; circumference of thigh, 4 feet 2 inches; circumference of calf of leg, 2 feet 7 inches; circumference of ankle, 1 foot 7 inches.

THE FESTIVAL OF JUGGERNAUT.—The Calcutta papers lately received contain a most melancholy account of the celebration of the festival of Juggeraut in June last. Upwards of two hundred thousand natives attended the disgusting exhibition, and the rites were performed with more than ordinary pomp and display. Many Europeans were also present, and it is suggested that their rival eagerness to gain an early sight of the elephantine image left on the native mind a very general impression that they really believed in the divinity or power of the hideous idol. The fearful results of the festival were more than ordinarily disgusting and demoralising. The "heavenly" town of Pooree was filled with cholera, death, and putrescence. Its hospitals presented scenes which ordinary nerves shrank from; the dead were turned out every twenty-four hours. Starvation, nakedness, disease, mingled in the crowded streets with mortality. The various roads to the town were interrupted by the bodies of the dead and the dying; the vultures fed on the carcases decaying, and a pestilence prevailed in all the surrounding districts.

THE WALL LIZARD.—These little animals, which are most elegantly formed, are the domestic inmates of almost every bungalow throughout India. As soon as it is dusk, they are to be heard answering to each other in every direction, uttering a sharp note resembling the loud ticking of a watch, which has prompted the natives to call them, very appositely, "tickee-tickee." The rapidity with which they traverse the smooth, stuccoed walls of dwelling-houses is truly surprising, whilst their "muscipacal" faculties are most astonishing. Were it not for these little creatures, the rooms in India, during the rains, would be rendered intolerable, owing to the constant intrusion of moths, winged ants, mosquitoes, and other similar nuisances, which are attracted to these places by the light of the candles, and prove extremely offensive. This *lacerta* possesses so remarkable an eye, that it appears utterly impossible for the insect which it approaches to escape it; it will advance towards its victim at a slow pace, until it arrives within two inches of it, exercising a fascinating spell over its ill-fated object, which it eventually darts at, emitting a snapping noise, which is produced by the collision of its mandibles, whilst in the immediate act of seizing its prey. During the day it secretes itself behind looking glasses, pictures, and furniture, and is regarded by the natives as one of their penates.

THE IDEAL AND THE ACTUAL.—Everything is beautiful seen from the point of the intellect, or as truth. But all is sour if seen as experience. Details are always melancholy; the plan is sternly and noble. It is strange how painful is the actual world—the painful kingdom of time and place. There dwells care and canker and fear. With thought, with the ideal, is immortal hilarity, the rose of joy. Round it all the Muses sing. But with names and persons, and the partial interests of to-day and yesterday, is grief.—*Emerson.*

THE CHINESE TAILOR.—Among the many whimsical anecdotes told of the peculiar habits of the Chinese, perhaps few will be considered more characteristic of their love of imitation than the following:—Towards the close of the last century an officer of the Pitt, East India-man, when that ship lay off Canton, sent ashore to a native an order for a dozen pair of trousers, to be made of the nankeen for which China has been so long famed. The Chinese artisan required a pattern: he could not make anything without a pattern. So a pair of trousers were sent at his request, which pair had been mended with a patch and needlework on the knee. In due time the dozen pairs were sent on board, of a fabric of exceeding beauty for fineness and quality, but every pair bearing, like an heraldic badge, the obnoxious patch on the one knee, exactly copied stitch for stitch, in a style that reflected the highest credit on the mechanical skill of the workman, and for the difficult execution of which an extra charge was made upon the purse of the exasperated owner, who had no alternative but to bring home his bargain as a qualification for the Traveller's Club; for certainly among no kindred or people living between this and China, could a similar achievement have been performed.

TEST OF GOOD BISHOPS.—Dr. Monsey, a most eccentric character, who was physician to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, used to say that he never heard of but one good bishop, and that was one who left his body to the surgeons for dissection.

LITERATURE.

Lights and Shadows of London Life. By the Author of "Random Recollections of the Lords and Commons." 2 vols. London. Saunders and Otley.

THE author of this work needs no introduction. He is well known as a sketcher of men and manners. He has given to the public a fuller idea of the varieties of Life in London, than almost any other writer. His pictures are lightly drawn and, we believe, usually correct. The subjects of them are not, it is true, invariably well-chosen—and this very work, free as it is from impurity, and displaying, as it does, both the benevolence and religion of the author, reveals some secrets, and touches upon some themes which parents would scarcely think of presenting to the notice of their children. We allude especially to the first chapter of the work, on quacks and quackery, the general tendency of which we admit to be useful, but the inaptitude of which, for family reading, must strike every reader.

We cannot pretend to analyse the contents—the interesting contents, we may say, of these multifarious volumes. We have rambled through them with considerable pleasure. They present to us new views of the vast tide of life which floats through this great metropolis. We see it at different angles of vision, and observe phenomena which we had never before noticed. We shall content ourselves with presenting our readers with a few extracts, from which they will gather a general idea of the work. And first for a description of

RAG FAIR.

"The place in which the fair is held is in the vicinity of Houndsditch. It begins at the end of Cutler street, leading out of Houndsditch, and proceeds about seventy or eighty feet in an eastward direction. It then embraces a narrow street, called White's Alley, extending about a hundred feet towards the north; thence it again takes an eastward turn, proceeding in a direct line and extending as far as Petticoat lane, where it turns to the north and south. Probably the entire length of the locality graced by the presence of the patrons of Rag Fair, may be nearly a quarter of a mile; while the width of the space it occupies varies with the breadth of the streets and lanes in which it is held. The largest of these lanes is dark and dirty. It is quite an era in its existence to be illumined by even the most momentary gleam of sunshine. Any one would find it a perfectly safe speculation to wager any sum his opponent might be pleased to accept, that, for eight consecutive months of the year—namely, from September to May—the sun will not show his face on the pavement of the leading street. It is never dry. While the dust is flying in all directions, to the serious inconvenience of the eyes, the throat, and the nostrils, in the other streets and lanes of the metropolis, the centre of this dark dirty street exhibits a Thames in miniature. Let no one suspect me of exaggeration or hyperbole when I say that, for centuries past, there has been a substance, at least ankle-deep, constituting a compromise between water and mud, in this particular spot. There are persons who, for the space of half-a-century, have been eye-witnesses to the fact, and who are ready at any time to bear their attestation to it. And these parties state, that they have heard their parents vouch for the same fact as regarded another half-century before their time. Whence the moisture comes is a problem beyond the powers of my philosophy to solve. One would suppose that the rain cannot be the author of it; because it is a perfect puddle when the metropolis has been suffering a severe drought of several weeks' continuance. I am rather inclined to the hypothesis—though I advance it with becoming modesty—that the fact is to be chiefly accounted for from the circumstance of the water which the Jews who inhabit the lane are in the practice of emptying into it, intermingling with the dirt; and, after thus resolving itself into the 'consistency' of mud, continuing in the same form, in consequence of there being neither sunshine, nor wind, nor drought, to interfere with it. But be the causes what they may, the fact is as I have stated."—pp. 122—124.

One chapter is devoted to what the author calls in current, but in our opinion objectionable, language, "the higher and lower classes"—the average annual amount of expenditure in aristocratic families, and their luxurious mode of living. And in contrast with this, he brings forward the destitution and deep distress of the London poor. A hearty benevolence characterises the whole chapter. Take the following illustration of

THE MODE OF LIVING AMONGST THE POOR.

"It is painful to turn our thoughts from the luxurious living which obtains among the higher, and to a great extent among the middle, classes of society, to the contemplation of the miserable living which prevails among the lower classes. Myriads of the latter grope and grovel in families of from seven to fourteen in miserable hovels, many of them underneath the ground, without grates, without glass windows, or indeed windows of any kind—the only light and air being admitted through the horizontal door. Here, amidst damp and filth, and without a breath of fresh air from one year's end to the other, do whole families mess together as if they were so many pigs. St. Giles's, the neighbourhood of Drury lane, St. George's in the Fields, and immense districts in the eastern parts of the metropolis, are among the localities in which these appalling scenes are to be witnessed. And the wretchedness of the huts or hovels to which I refer, is greatly aggravated by the deplorable destitution of the unhappy inmates as regards food and clothing. The quantities of food on which thousands of them subsist, are incredibly small; sometimes a whole family, consisting of from five to ten individuals, are compelled to live (if living it can be called) on an amount of food which would not more than suffice for a hearty meal to a person possessing an ordinary appetite; while in the article of apparel they have scarcely enough wherewithal to cover their nakedness."—pp. 163, 164.

"Dress-makers' assistants" occupy another chapter. Poor ill-fated, hard-worked, neglected creatures! their life is one of perpetual drudgery unsolaced by any apparent enjoyment. Who can help ruminating upon the mass of concealed misery which preys upon these hapless victims of oppression? The following pictures may be viewed side by side.

DRESS-MAKERS' ASSISTANTS—THEIR MISTRESSES.

"And how do these 15,000 young females live? and how are they treated? A plain unvarnished narrative shall answer the questions.

"The usual hour at which dress-makers' assistants commence their labours is seven in the morning, and that at which they close for the day is eleven at night. One half-hour more elapses before they can retire to rest, and in order to be ready to resume their needle at seven in the morning, they must at least get up by half-past six. The average amount of time, therefore, which is allotted them for rest, does not exceed seven

hours. This would be obviously too little for delicate female frames—especially at the critical time of life at which by far the largest portion of these girls are apprenticed—even were their labours light and of short duration during the day. But the very reverse is the painful fact: they ply the needle without a moment's intermission, save the twenty or thirty minutes allowed them for eating their meals, from the time they enter the work-room, until they have quitted it for the night. Now, surely it needs no medical genius to tell us, that to poor young delicate creatures thus worn out day after day for a succession of months, with fourteen or fifteen hours' unintermitting toil, seven hours' repose is not only inadequate to meet the requirements of nature, but must be attended with the greatest perils to the constitution. Nor ought I to omit the mention of the fact, that the little repose allowed them is deprived of its beneficial effects, by the circumstance of from ten to twelve of their number being compelled to sleep in one small confined bed-room."—pp. 179, 180.

"A word or two now in reference to the mistresses of these poor creatures In the majority of cases—especially in the West End—mistress milliners and dress-makers live in great splendour. They rent large and fashionable houses, and furnish them in a style of great magnificence; have a large retinue of servants; receive formal visitors; and give expense parties! In fact, it were difficult to distinguish from the style of furniture and general aspect of their houses, between many of our mistress dress-makers and aristocratic families. Need I add that the contrast between their condition and that of their miserable assistants, only aggravates the wretchedness of the latter?"—pp. 188—189.

From the chapter on public vehicles we select the following

HINTS FOR HIRING A COACH.

"Decidedly the best way to guard against the impositions of hackney coachmen in London, is to tell them to drive you a certain distance; say two or three miles, as the case may be, in the direction of the place to which you are going. In that case, you shut their mouths against all pretexts for cheating you. When you ask them to drive you to a certain place instead of a certain distance, they will stoutly maintain that the distance is as much greater than it really is, as will correspond to the amount of which they mean to defraud you. When you adopt the course I have recommended, they never dare to ask more than the legal fare. To be sure they will look sulky, and greet your ears with an under growl or two; but never mind that; you have paid your proper fare, and all you have now to do is to walk yourself away as comfortably as possible, to the place of intended destination."—pp. 257, 258.

The author gives us a vivid description of the public benevolent institutions associated in London. We need not say that they command his hearty approval. Nor can we refrain from bringing before our readers the following comments on

CHRISTIAN BENEVOLENCE.

"The benevolence of London, it is right to remark, is emphatically, and almost exclusively, the fruit of christian principle. I do not here particularly allude to the various metropolitan institutions whose very names imply a christian origin. Even the numerous societies and institutions which limit their sympathies and assistance to the condition of suffering humanity, as regards the present life, will, on inquiry, be found to have had their origin, and still to have their principal support, in the philanthropy of Christians. Just glance your eye over the list of subscribers to the various benevolent institutions in London, whose objects are the amelioration of the condition of man in the present life, and it will be seen, that the names are, with very few exceptions, those of persons who have felt the power of Christianity, and who take a prominent part in every religious work. I ask my metropolitan readers to inspect these lists with the greatest care, and then compare the number of names in them of persons they individually know to be Christians, with the number of persons' names whom they know to be deists or atheists. In no case will they find more than a very few of the names of the latter class; in several instances they will find none at all. I will not say that an infidel may not be an amiable and kindly person: it were to speak in opposition to the result of my personal observation, if I did; but this I do say, that not one infidel out of a hundred is a good or benevolent man; while it is of the very essence of Christianity to generate benevolence in the breast of him who has experienced its regenerating power. Christianity, therefore, tried by the test of the sympathy it feels in the wants and wretchedness of humanity, and the efforts it makes to relieve the necessitous and to bless the miserable, appears to infinitely greater advantage than the antagonist system of infidelity. Bands of Christian philanthropists are everywhere to be found in the metropolis; a band of infidels associated together for purposes of pure benevolence, is not only not to be met with now, but I will venture to say, never was known to exist in the periods that are past."—pp. 296—298.

Of begging impostors we have a most amusing account. We had heard somewhat on this subject ere now—but the disclosures made by this author are nearly new to us. Thus—let us take a peep at

MRS. CUMMINGS' LODGINGS.

"In those lodging-houses which were formerly open to the begging fraternity promiscuously, and where business was carried on on a large scale, it was found, from experience, necessary to take certain precautions against the abstraction of any of the articles of furniture. Mother Cummings, who died a few years since, and who for a long period kept a lodging-house in a low street in Bloomsbury, always made a point of turning the key on her customers when they went to bed, and then unlocked the door with her own hand in the morning. By this means she prevented any of them abstracting any articles of furniture in the course of the night; and as she witnessed every one of them quit their hovels in the morning, the idea of felony in the case of her property was out of the question. I may here mention, that Mother Cummings, while she was alive, kept by far the most extensive lodging-house for mendicants of any of her cotem; oraries. She has been known to have had, on repeated occasions, upwards of eighty lodgers at once. And, strange as it may seem, it was proved to be a fact, that she had one round bed in which, when there was an unusual demand for accommodation, eighteen or twenty persons have been huddled together for the night. Mother Cummings made always a distinction between the better and inferior class of mendicants. With this view she had two prices for the nocturnal accommodation she afforded. The charge for a bed in ordinary circumstances was two-pence per night; but if any one chose to indulge in the luxury of clean straw, the charge was four-pence. The choice, therefore, of the different applicants for lodgings, enabled her at once to divide her customers into two classes; and both were treated by her with a measure of attention corresponding to the place they occupied in her estimation. Mother Cummings eventually retired from business, having amassed a considerable amount of money. She took a private house in Somers-town, where she died. The news of her death spread like wildfire among the fraternity, and her funeral was attended by an immense number of her former lodgers."—vol. ii. pp. 121—123.

One more quotation and we have done. It is from a chapter on the Jews, and presents us with a view of

JEWISH DOMESTICITIES.

"The Jews, immediately after rising, prepare for breakfast. They are

most scrupulous in their observance of grace at their meals. Having washed their hands—which is a practice invariably observed at meals by all the strict Jews—one of the number present says this short grace before meat:—‘Blessed art thou, O Lord, our God! King of the universe, who bringeth forth bread from the earth.’ After the meal, they must again wash their hands, and say the following grace:—‘We will bless Him, of whose gifts we have eaten.’ If there be three persons at the table, the other two make this response:—‘Blessed be He of whose gifts we have eaten, and through whose abundant goodness we live;’ and the words are repeated by the party who said grace. In those cases in which ten or more persons sit down to table, one of the number says after the meal, ‘We will bless our God, of whose gifts we have eaten;’ and the others return the answer given above. To their answer, the person saying grace responds as follows:—‘Blessed be God, of whose gifts we have eaten, and through whose abundant goodness we live. Blessed be He, blessed be his name, and blessed his memorial for ever and ever.’ If a person sits down to a meal by himself, he says a very long grace—one that would fill a closely-printed octavo page. The grace begins thus:—‘Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who sustaineth us, but not for the merit of our works; and cherisheth us, but not for our righteousness; who superabundantly bestoweth his goodness on us; who feedeth us and the whole world with his goodness, and with grace renders abundance and mercy, giveth bread to every creature, for his mercy endureth for ever; and his abundant goodness hath never been deficient towards us: and may we never be in want of sustenance for ever and ever; for he feedeth and sustaineth all, and his table is provided for all. He hath also prepared food and sustenance for all his creatures, which he hath created in his mercy and abundant kindness; as it is written, ‘Thou openest thy hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing.’ Blessed art thou, O Lord, who giveth food unto all.’ In a form of grace used on the occasion of a particular feast, and when only one person sits down to the meal, there occurs this passage:—‘Thou art our father, our pastor, and feeder; our maintenance, happiness, and enlargement. Enlarge us speedily from all our troubles, and suffer us not, O Lord our God, to stand in need of the gifts of mankind, nor their loan; for their gift is small, and their reproach great: but let us depend on thy full and extensive hand only, which is rich and always open; so that we may not be put to shame in this world, nor confounded in the future.’” pp. 254—257.

The reader will now have a glimmering of the nature of the work as well as of the style of execution. Those who would see more, must purchase the volumes.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine* for November.
2. *A Plea for the Female Mission*, or, the Moral Claims of Female Servants Stated and Enforced. By HENRY EDWARDS. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co. 1841.
3. *Polytechnic Journal* for November.
4. *Congregational Magazine* for November.
5. *Eclectic Review* for November.
6. *Baptist Magazine* for November.
7. *The Refuge Miscellany and Monthly Record of the Proceedings of the Penitent Female Refuge*. Jan. to Nov., 1841.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Great George-street chapel, Liverpool, which has risen with unexampled rapidity from the ashes of the chapel destroyed by fire in the month of February, 1840, was opened for divine service on Thursday week, by a series of interesting services, all of which were numerously, and some of them most numerously, attended by not merely Dr. Raffles's own people, but by friends and ministers of religion of every christian denomination. The workmanship of the building is in every respect worthy of the plan of the architect, and throughout everything is in keeping with the rich and elegant order of architecture adopted by the committee. The services commenced at seven o'clock in the morning with a meeting in the lecture-room for thanksgiving. The weather was dreadfully inclement, but still this meeting was very numerously attended. The first service for divine service ever held in the chapel commenced at half-past ten in the morning, when it was filled to overflowing. The Rev. Dr. Raffles conducted the earlier part of the services, and the Rev. Dr. Fletcher, formerly of Blackburn Academy, now of Stepney, preached the introductory address. After the morning service, about 350 friends partook of a dinner in the school rooms under the chapel. The service in the afternoon was opened by the Rev. John Ely, of Leeds, and the sermon preached by the Rev. John Kelly, of Crescent chapel. In the evening the Rev. James Parsons preached a most powerful and impressive discourse to an immense congregation, which filled the building to overflowing. On Sunday morning, the Rev. Dr. Raffles, by the special desire of his people, filled his own pulpit, and, notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather, the chapel was crowded. The sermon on Sunday evening was preached by the Rev. Dr. Harris, president of Cheshunt college. Such was the curiosity to hear the author of “Mammon,” “The Great Teacher,” that forty minutes before the service commenced there was a dense crowd round the portico of the chapel, crushing and struggling for admission. The services concluded on Monday evening when the Rev. Dr. Halley of Manchester preached an impressive sermon to a full congregation. The collections amounted to £500.

The Queen has been pleased to address a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, requiring a collection to be made in every church and chapel in aid of the funds of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

On Thursday, October 28th, at Worthing, in the Independent chapel, the Rev. C. E. Rees, late of Blackburn Academy, was publicly ordained to the pastoral office in that place, on which occasion the Rev. J. Hunter, of Brighton, delivered a very beautiful and talented discourse, describing the nature of a new testament church. The Rev. W. Malden, of Chichester, then proposed a variety of questions which were responded to by Mr. Rees to the great satisfaction of the congregation, concerning his conversion to Christ, his views of the christian ministry, of ecclesiastical polity, and of the doctrines of christianity. The ordination prayer was presented by the Rev. C. T. Smith, of Reigate, accompanied by the laying on of hands; after which the Rev. Robert Ashton, of Putney, gave an able and impressive charge to the young minister ordained, setting forth the duties of the ministerial office, which was followed by an energetic sermon to the people by the Rev. J. N. Goult, of Brighton, explaining and enforcing the duties

of the church and congregation to their pastor. The Revs. Messrs. Durrant of Shoreham, and Rees of Reigate, were also present, and assisted in the sacred services of the day. It is with sincere pleasure we observe the cause at this popular watering-place bids fair to be a flourishing one, and that the new minister enters on his labours under auspicious circumstances.

On Wednesday, October 27th, the Rev. W. Liddell was publicly recognised as the pastor of the baptist church, Rawden, Yorkshire. The Rev. J. Stringer, independent minister of Idle commenced with reading and prayer. The introductory discourse, illustrative of the constitution of the church of Christ, was delivered by the Rev. H. Dowson, of Bradford, and special prayer for a blessing on the union was presented by the Rev. J. Foster, of Farsley. The Rev. J. Acworth, A.M., president of Horton college, gave a solemn and affectionate charge to the newly-elected pastor, and a very appropriate discourse was addressed to the church by the Rev. W. Scott, president of Airedale college.

On Wednesday, the 27th of October, Mr. J. Allen was ordained pastor of the baptist church, Alcester. The introductory address was delivered by the Rev. J. Edwards, of Stratford-on-Avon; the usual questions were proposed by the Rev. J. Price, the former pastor; the Rev. J. Coles, of Evesham, offered the ordination prayer; and the Rev. W. Hawkins, A.M., late of Derby, gave the charge to the minister. In the evening, the Rev. S. J. Davis, of Salter's-hall chapel, London, preached to the people. The devotional parts of the services were conducted by the Rev. Messrs. Prayne, Casto, Hockin, Blore, Taylor, and Overbury.

A meeting on the subject of religious persecution in Denmark, was held in the Exchange, Manchester, on Thursday last, when the Rev. E. Giles and the Rev. Mr. Dowson, of Leeds, attended as a deputation from the West Riding Association of Baptist Ministers, who had taken great interest in this question. The meeting was numerously and respectfully attended. Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P., presided. A motion having been passed calling upon the deputation to make their report, Mr. Giles then rose and addressed the meeting at considerable length, detailing the circumstances of the persecution. The Rev. Mr. Dowson followed, and a collection having been made in aid of the object, the Rev. Mr. Beardsall and the Rev. J. W. Massie briefly addressed the meeting. A party of socialists interrupted the meeting, and two of them insisted on making speeches, which they did, and the proceedings terminated soon after ten o'clock.

BIRTH.

Oct. 29, at 26, Upper Thames street, Mrs. THOS. HAWKINS, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Coventry, by the Rev. John Jerard, GEORGE, youngest son of the late Rev. T. N. TOLLER, of Kettering, to JANE ELIZA, youngest daughter of SAMUEL GIBSON, Esq., of the former place.

Lately, at Ebenezer chapel (baptist), Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, by the Rev. T. Sutton, Mr. LIVETT, of Waterbeach, to Mrs. KIMPTON, of Cottenham; Mr. JAMES CROSS, to Miss ELIZABETH TODD, both of Cottenham; and Mr. WILLIAM SPACKMAN, to Miss ELIZA WATSON, also of Cottenham: all on one day.

Oct. 19, at the friends' meeting-house, Bristol, Mr. H. WILMOT, of Easton, to L., daughter of the late Mr. S. MULLETT, of Tauton.

Oct. 26, at St. Mary's Isle, the Hon. CHARLES HOPE, M.P., third son of the late Earl of Hopstoun, to Lady ISABELLA HELEN DOUGLAS, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Selkirk.

Oct. 28, at the independent chapel, Great Coggeshall, by the Rev. J. KAY, HAROLD GILES, Esq., surgeon, to SARAH, daughter of STEPHEN UNWIN, Esq., both of Coggeshall, Essex.

DEATHS.

On Sunday last, Oct. 31, aged 56, the Rev. EDWARD HICKMAN, of Denton, in Norfolk. For 35 years he exercised the pastoral office in the independent church at that place, and never amongst men has pure christian doctrine been exemplified by a purer manifestation of christian principles. His preaching was with power the outpouring of a mind deeply stored with bible knowledge and with all the resources in ancient and modern literature that could illustrate or enforce the records of God's word. His life and conversation were as it became the gospel of peace, and his whole spirit was moulded to his master's great law, the law of love. He was descended from the nonconformists of 1662, and was himself the seventh of his family in a direct succession of gospel ministers.

Oct. 22, at Hirsall hall, near Coldstream, Berwickshire, the Right Hon. the Earl of HOME.

Oct. 31, of typhus fever, in the 33rd year of his age, FRANCIS BREWIN, jun., Esq., of the Paragon, New Kent road.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, October 29.

INSOLVENTS.

GIRAUD, CHARLES ELDEN, Sevenoaks, Kent, chemist and druggist, Oct. 28.

INGRAM, BENJAMIN, 38, Beech street, Barbican, timber merchant, Oct. 28.

BANKRUPTS.

FLETCHER, BEAUMONT, High Holborn, tallow melter, to surrender Nov. 5, Dec. 10: solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Mansion house place.

HILDYARD, HENRY and ROBERT, Brigg, Lincolnshire, wine merchants, Nov. 8, Dec. 10: solicitors, Mr. Dimmock, 12, Sise lane, Buxtonbury, London, Mr. W. H. Ashurst, 137, Cheapside, London, and Messrs. Nicholson and Hett, Brigg, Lincolnshire.

LAING, JOHN and GEORGE, now or late of 16, Eastcheap, London, cork manufacturers, Nov. 9, Dec. 10: solicitors, Messrs. Baker and Parsons, 7, Buxtonbury.

RUSTON, JOHN, St. Paul's church yard, commission agent, Nov. 10, Dec. 10: solicitor, Mr. Goddard, King street, Cheapside.

SMITH, RICHARD, and MARSHALL, STEPHEN, Austin friars, City, Russia brokers, Nov. 10, Dec. 10: solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Mansion house place.

SOUTHALL, RICHARD, jun., Birmingham, merchant, Nov. 15, Dec. 10: solicitors, Messrs. Johnson, Son, and Weatherall, Temple, London, and Messrs. Higson and Son, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BROWN, WILLIAM PANTON, Tunstall, manufacturer, Nov. 5 and 26.

STEWART, JAMES, Paisley, grocer, Nov. 4 and 25.

TOWNSEND, FRANK, Edinburgh, tavern housekeeper, Nov. 5 and 26.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 20, Firth, Coburg Arms, Welber street, Lambeth, licensed victualler—Nov. 20, Carruthers, Leadenhall street, City, tea dealer—Nov. 24, G. and W. Helder, 17, Clement's inn, money scriveners—Nov. 22, Vardy, Newbury, Berkshire, bookseller—Nov. 19, Pettit, late of Hastings, Sussex, jeweller—Nov. 19, Franks, late of Portsea, Hampshire, glass and china dealer—Nov. 19, Eltuck, Milton, Kent, grocer—Dec. 2, Davenport, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, cabinet maker—Nov. 19, Cloughton, Dixon mill, Yeadon, Yorkshire, fulling miller—Nov. 26, Haddon and Co., late of Liverpool, merchants—Nov. 19, Sharp, Romsey, Southampton, paper manufacturer—Nov. 22, Law, jun., Hamer mill, Rochdale, Lancashire, corn miller—Nov. 24, Thomas, Halifax, Yorkshire, jeweller.

CERTIFICATE—Nov. 19.

Little, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, and Norwich, linen draper—Daglish, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiner—Bywater, Hemington, Leicestershire, carpenter—Brown, Sutton-under-Whitestonecliff, Yorkshire, cattle dealer—Norris, Liverpool, iron founder—Lewis, Fleet street, City, bookseller—Balshaw, Altringham, Cheshire, bookseller.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Taylor and Neat, Westbury, Wiltshire, plumbers—B. H., and R. Haynes, Micklem, Surrey, timber merchants—A. and H. Noake, Woolstone, Berkshire, farmers—E. and C. Tubb, Caversham mill, Oxford, millers—Burdon and Brown, Heaton Norris,

Lancashire, farmers—J. and T. Atkinson, Halifax, Yorkshire, linen drapers—Johnson and Highley, Halifax, Yorkshire, milliners—Morgan and Rhodes, formerly of Eastcheap, and then of Brabant court, Philpot lane, City, Irish provision agents—Taylor and Christian, Ashford, Kent, furnishing ironmongers—Astrop and Son, Kingston-upon-Hull, paper merchants—A. and J. Lowe, Manchester, commission agents—Procter and Vickers, Ripon, Yorkshire, booksellers—J. A., J. A., and J. C. Heraud, Bell yard, Carey street, Chancery lane, law stationers—Barr and Co., Worcester, and New Bond street and Coventry street, London, manufacturers of porcelain (so far as regards Yates)—Atkins and Laing, 5, White Hart court, Lombard street, and Deptford, attorneys—Read and Hanks, Rupert street and Archer street, Westminster, coach makers—T. and A. Taylor, Batley, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturers—Atkinson and Co., Aldersgate street, manufacturing chymists (so far as regards Chippindale)—Wilson and Gould, Kingston-upon-Hull, curriers—Roy and Co., 42, Lothbury, City, attorneys (so far as regards Duncan)—Shaw and Bone, White Horse wharf, Wandsworth, coal merchants—H. and M. Stapley, Tunbridge Wells, upholsterers.

Tuesday, November, 2.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 Wm. IV., cap. 85.—
The Baptist chapel, St. Helen's, Abingdon, Berkshire. Richard Ellis, superintendent registrar.

INSOLVENTS.

KERR, HENRY THOMAS COGGAN, BAUGHAN, JOHN HENRY, and HAINES, THOMAS TURGIS, Suffolk street, Pall Mall, East, army agents, Nov. 2.

NEUMEGEN, LEOPOLD, Highgate, bookseller, Nov. 2.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

MORCOM, JOEL, St. Ives, Cornwall, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.

ASHTON, JAMES, Liverpool, printer, Nov. 13, Dec. 14: solicitors, Mr. Booker, Liverpool, and Messrs. Hulme and Co., New inn, London.

BROMFIELD, GEORGE WEBB, 227, Blackfriars road, brush manufacturer, Nov. 11, Dec. 14: solicitor, Mr. James May, 2, Princes street, Spitalfields.

DARMAN, CHARLOTTE, and DORMAN, EDWARD DANIEL, 15, Charlotte street, Rathbone place, glass and china dealers, Nov. 12, Dec. 14: solicitors, Messrs. Salomon and Long, 7, Windmill street, Fitzroy square.

FLETCHER, JOHN ROBERT, Grantham, Lincolnshire, wine merchant, Nov. 10, Dec. 14: solicitor, Mr. Charles J. Shoubridge, 3, Bedford row, London.

GANDY, GEORGE, 16, Princes street, Spitalfields, silk manufacturer, Nov. 10, Dec. 14: solicitor, Mr. Turner, 8, Chancery lane.

GROVE, EDMUND, Dawley, Shropshire, draper, Nov. 13, Dec. 14: solicitors, Mr. Christopher Mort Robinson, Shifnal, Shropshire, and Messrs. Chester and Toumlin, Staple inn, London.

INGRAM, BENJAMIN, Beech street, Barbican, timber merchant, Nov. 10, Dec. 14: solicitors, Messrs. Selby, Sergeants' inn, Fleet street.

LUCAS, ROBERT, Bristol, ironmonger, Nov. 12, Dec. 14: solicitors, Messrs. Bridges and Mason, Red Lion square, London, and Mr. Wayk, Bristol.

MARSHALL, BRAUMONT, High Holborn, tallow melter, Nov. 5, Dec. 14: solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Mansion house place, City.

MERRITT, PATRICK, now or late of 3, Huggin lane, Wood street, City, warehouseman, Nov. 10, Dec. 14: solicitor, Mr. Tarrant, 4, Walbrook, City.

SHAFTOE, HENRY, and CLARKE, WILLIAM, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, common brewers, Nov. 9, Dec. 14: solicitors, Messrs. Swain and Co., 6, Fredrick's place, Old Jewry, London, and Messrs. Young and White, Bishop Wearmouth.

STEVENSON, CHARLES, Sheffield, upholsterer, Nov. 13, Dec. 14: solicitors, Mr. Edward Brookbank Tattershall, 9, Great James street, Bedford row, London, and Messrs. Hoole and Marples, Sheffield.

WATSON, RICHARD BARRET, Leeds, share broker, Nov. 12, Dec. 14: solicitors, Mr. Charles Wilson, 6, Southampton street, Bloomsbury, London, and Messrs. Payne and Co., Leeds.

WILSON, GEORGE, Lindley, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturer, Nov. 19, Dec. 14: solicitors, Mr. Thomas Ehdye, Clement's inn, London, and Mr. Sykes, Milnes bridge, Huddersfield.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

HAMILTON, ROBERT, Hamilton, grocer, Nov. 8, 29.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 25, Sardinian and Co., Wood street, London, warehouseman—Nov. 23, Twort, Horsenden, Kent, miller—Nov. 23, Roach, Liverpool street, London, and Liverpool, merchant—Nov. 28, Wright and Co., now or late of 6, Henrietta street, Covent garden, bankers—Nov. 27, Baldry, jun., late of Bury St. Edmunds, and then of Ipswich, Suffolk, innkeeper—Nov. 24, Little and Chalmers, Great Yarmouth, and of Norwich, linen drapers—Nov. 25, Churchyard and Holmes, Halifax, Yorkshire, woolstaplers—Nov. 24, Smith and Chalmers, Great Yarmouth, and Norwich, linen drapers—Nov. 25, Jackson, Wolsingham, Durham, spirit merchant—Nov. 24, Stubbs, Calstor, Lincolnshire, linen draper—Dec. 14, Mallison, Blackburn, Lancashire, merchant—Nov. 26, Williams, Bangor, Carnarvonshire, shipwright—Nov. 26, Clarke, Cambridge, gun maker—Nov. 24, Levick, Sheffield, ivory merchant—Nov. 23, W. and B. Hulke and Dixon, Deal, Kent, bankers—Nov. 30, Barlow, Birmingham, brass founder.

CERTIFICATES—Nov. 23.

Clarke, Great Malvern, Worcestershire, innkeeper—Allies, Alfrick, Worcestershire, timber merchant—Willett, now or late of Hulme, Lancashire, builder—Wilson and Briddon, Salford, Lancashire, machine makers—Blanthorn, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, mercer—Lambley, Birmingham, hotel keeper—Caplin, 126 and 127, Great Portland street, Marylebone, milliner—Lowndes and Hill, Stoke-upon-Trent, earthenware manufacturers—Sharp, Southampton, attorney-at-law—Grove, Birmingham, grocer—Radford, Manchester, ironfounder—Burton, 28, King street, Soho, upholsterer—Cloke, Hastings, Sussex, draper—J. and B. Smith, Manchester, Scotch and Manchester warehouseman.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Leigh and Phillips, 40, Mansell street, Goodman's fields, general dealers—Wilson and Co., Bradford, Yorkshire, woolstaplers—Scott and Locke, 6, Marylebone street, Piccadilly, woollen drapers—Summerfield and Irwin, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Lancashire, joiners—Gamble and Marsden, St. Helen's, Lancashire, manufacturing chemists—Livingstone and Jackson, Dresden rooms, Liverpool, glass and china dealers—Smallwood and Kyle, York, dress makers—Wingrave and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, hat manufacturers—Mayall and Co., New Earth-mill, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinners, (so far as regards John McIvor)—Morrison and Gittings, Norwich, wine, spirit, ale, and porter merchants—Wood and Goepel, Southampton, dancing masters—Townsend and Co., Coventry, coal merchants and maltsters—Barber and Co., Kimberworth, Dropping-well, and Rawmarsh, Yorkshire, farmers and coal miners, (so far as regards I., E., W., and S. Barber)—Miles and Smith, Surrey, dealers—Spedding and Ward, Ordnance Wharf, Belvidere road, Lambeth, coal merchants—Jardine and Co., Blackburn, Lancashire, drapers—Fear and Co., Bristol, plumbers—Smith and Co., Oakham, Rutlandshire, common brewers, (so far as regards G. T. Smith)—Handley, jun., and Copley, Leeds, woollen cloth merchants—Willoughby and Beckhams, Blevre, France, patent hinge manufacturers.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The intelligence of the acquittal of M'Leod and release of Major Grogan has improved the funds $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the rise would have been considerably greater had it not been for the unsettled position of the funded debt, in consequence of the fraud in exchequer bills. The money market has undergone no particular alteration since, although the exchequer bill affair, and the destruction of arms in the tower, must, as is supposed by many, cause an unexpected increase of the public expenditure.

WED. THURS. FRI. SAT. MON. TUES.

3 per cent. Consols	88	87	88	88	88
Ditto for Account	88	88	88	88	88
3 per cents. Reduced	87	87	86	87	87
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. Reduced	96	96	96	96	97
New 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	98	98	98	98	98
Long Annuities	12	12	12	12	12
Bank Stock	—	164	163	161	—
India Stock	243	244	243	244	244
Exchequer Bills	11 pm.	11 pm.	2 pm.	2 pm.	par
India Bonds, 3 per cent.	1 dis.	2 pm.	2 pm.	2 pm.	1 pm.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	25
Belgian	102	Peruvian	—
Brazilian	55	Portuguese 5 per cents.	29
Buenos Ayres	—	Ditto 3 per cents.	18
Columbian	19	Russian	113
Danish	79	Spanish Active	20
Dutch 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents.	51	Ditto Passive	5
Ditto 5 per cents.	99	Ditto Deferred	10

SHARES.	
Birmingham and Derby	47
Birmingham and Gloucester	55
Blackwall	84
Bristol and Exeter	26
Cheltenham and Gt. Western	15
Eastern Counties	73
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—
Great North of England	—
Great Western	76
Ditto New	55
Ditto Fifths	34
London and Birmingham	155
Ditto Quarter Shares	22

MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Nov. 1.

With moderate arrivals of English wheat, there has been a free sale this morning, and for the best parcels of English an advance of 2s., and on other descriptions an advance of 1s., on the prices of this day week have been made. Foreign wheat is 1s. per qr. dearer.

The millers having put the top price of flour to 6s., has caused a better sale for ship flour, at an advance of 1s. per sack.

Barley supports the prices of this day week.

New beans are 1s., and old beans 2s., per qr. dearer. White peas are very scarce, and 2s. per qr. higher; and grey peas 1s. per qr. higher.

The supplies of oats are small, and there is a good demand this morning at an improvement of 6d. per qr. on new, and 1s. per qr. on old since this day week.

WHEAT, Red New	6s to 68	MALT, Ordinary	50 to 53	BEANS, Old	38 to 41
Fine	68 .. 72	Pale ..	58 .. 64	Harrow ..	37 .. 41
White	62 .. 70	Pens, Hog ..	36 .. 38	Oats, Feed ..	22 .. 24
Fine	72 .. 78	Maple ..	36 .. 40	Fine ..	25 .. 28
Rye	32 .. 36	Boilers ..	40 .. 44	Poland ..	23 .. 26
Barley	26 .. 30	Malting ..	35 to 40	Potato ..	23 .. 26

WHEAT	63s. 6d.	MALT	30 to 53	BEANS	Old
Wheat	63s. 6d.	Wheat	62s. 10d.	Wheat	24s. 8d.
Barley	31	Barley	34	Barley	10 10
Oats	21	Oats	22	Oats	13 9
Rye	35	Rye	37	Rye	14 0
Beans	37	Beans	41	Beans	8 0
Peas	39	Peas	41	Peas	8 0

SEEDS.

Little or nothing has as yet been done in cloverseed, holders being unwilling to sell at present. Very high prices have lately been paid on the continent, and the article is likely to be dear throughout the season. Canaryseed was much sought after, and good quality was held at 120s. and upwards.

Linseed, English, sowing 54s. to 59s. per qr.	Coriander	10s. to 16s. pr. cwt.	
Baltic, ditto	Old ..	16 .. 18	
Di, crushing	48 .. 54	Canary, new	105 .. 110</td

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, Nov. 2.

TEA.—The market was firm to-day for free trade sorts, but there was little business doing, both buyers and sellers waiting for the overland mail, the express in anticipation of which is expected towards the close of the week. Company's Congou firm at 1s. 10*½*d. per lb. cash.

COFFEE.—The home consumption market has assumed a more buoyant appearance this week, and although there has been no particular increase of business, a better feeling appears to exist amongst the trade towards the article, especially as the importers of the better class of Coffees continue to withhold their stocks from the market, in anticipation of some improvement on the present low rates. The public sales to-day were important, consisting of 1,002 bags Ceylon, 48 casks Jamaica, 1,368 bags La Guayra, 2,415 bags Java, and 68 bales Mocha: the Ceylon sold rather briskly at stiff prices, good ord pale at 66s. to 67s. 6d., and good ord color at 69s. 6d.; the La Guayra was of low quality, but sold at previous rates; the La Guayra sold at 41s. 6d.

to 42s. for good ordinary, being steady prices; the Java (a low parcel) sold at about 2s. per cwt. decline—viz., at 42s. to 47s., first class sea-damaged at 49s. 6d. to 43s., and second ditto at 40s. 6d. to 41s.; the Mocha was very ordinary poddy, and was bought in at 60s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The Sugar market presented rather a heavy appearance to-day, with a downward tendency, though the holders reluctantly acceded to the offers of the buyers. The private sales of West India were under 200 hds. and tierces, but no alteration worth notice has taken place in the general currency. By public sale 101 hds. and 7 tierces Barbadoes went quietly, and some lots were bought in, but prices were steady, viz., low to fine yellow at 62s. 6d. to 72s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—There being very large supplies near at hand from St. Petersburg, the market has become extremely dull, and prices have again receded, 46s. 6d. to 47s. being the nearest price on the spot, and 46s. 6d. for delivery up to the end of the year. On Friday several parcels of Tallow were brought to public sale and nearly all disposed of.

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Rev. H. CALDERWOOD, Kendal, Rev. J. E. GOON, Gosport.

Extract from a Letter by the Rev. J. Harris, D.D., author of "Mammon."
The conception and arrangement of the work are admirable; and as far as I have had the opportunity of judging, the execution of it equals the plan. I have read various parts of it attentively; and while I have not met with anything which I could wish to have been omitted, most unfeignedly can I say that I have found much calculated to inspire and sustain devotion.

Epson.

A superficial survey of it, ("A Guide to Family Devotion,") is sufficient to manifest that its plan is the most complete of any with which I am acquainted, embracing everything which the service of the family altar requires, or admits of; while its execution is also such as to entitle it to commendation, and secure for it the circulation and use which its deserves.

Birmingham.

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